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Japan

U.S.-EC Farm Deal Seen as Possibly Disastrous

OW2905094592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0925 GMT 29 May 92

[Report by Keiko Tatsuta]

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 (KYODO)—Japan's top farm trade negotiator is becoming increasingly frustrated by mounting calls at home and abroad that Japan should play a "more active role" to help conclude the Uruguay Round of trade talks.

"The U.S.-EC compromise on farm trade might be disastrous to Japan," said Jiro Shiwaku, vice minister for international affairs of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries.

He predicted that smaller negotiating nations will have no option but to fall into line with the United States and the European Community (EC) regardless of what the two trading superpowers agree to.

On May 21, EC farm ministers agreed on the first major reform of its Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) by cutting farm subsidies, which could bring a compromise on the U.S.-EC dispute over agricultural support, still seen as one of the major impediments to the successful conclusion of the 108-nation round talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Depending on the content of the compromise, Japan might find itself isolated and even be forced out of GATT, Shiwaku, Japan's top farm trade negotiator said.

He suggested that Japan's opposition to "tariffication without exception" as proposed by GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel last December, has apparently been set aside.

"Japan has clearly stated its position, but they (the U.S. and EC) are deaf. It's a kind of cartel," Shiwaku said.

He said Dunkel's proposal was not the fruit of heated discussion among the 108 nations and lacked a balance between importers and exporters.

Japan could have brought forward some ideas on farm issues through a full discussion and balanced evaluation of the merits and demerits of tariffication, Shiwaku said.

The Agricultural Ministry has developed a plan for farming reform to strengthen Japan's agriculture toward the 21st century, seen as part of efforts to enhance international competitiveness.

Its new farm policy, called the new food and agrarian plan, is expected to pave the way for introduction of the principle of the market economy in agriculture, which is currently strongly protected by the government.

In contrast to Shiwaku's frustration, a university professor welcomed the external pressure on Japan.

Tamotsu Takase, a professor at Tokai University who has just finished a 29-year stint in the GATT secretariat said, "Japan is at last about to move toward farm reform."

Takase urged Japan to promote by and for itself the reform of its farming system before the country's agriculture is ruined. He said that both the Japanese people and politicians are interested only in rice at the world's most ambitious trade talks, which cover several issues such as services, intellectual property, and finance.

While admitting that attitudes are gradually changing, Takase said Japan still does not move first and only takes action after every other nation has done something or in response to pressure.

Takase expressed hope that Japan will play a positive role as an economic superpower, being the first to make a move on the international trading stage, because Japan is the largest beneficiary of the free trade system pursued under the GATT scheme.

Japan had so far filed only one complaint to GATT, against the EC's dumping regulations on parts, according to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI). In contrast, other GATT member nations have made eight complaints against Japan, 17 against the United States, and 12 against the EC from 1980 to March 1992.

Considering that a draft report under preparation by an advisory panel to the MITI minister pointed out a wide range of unfair trade practices by Japan's major trading partners, including the U.S., Japan seems to be unnecessarily defensive.

In this regard, however, Noboru Hatakeyama, vice MITI minister for international affairs, was proud that Japan won the EC case, which he said proved Japan's firm attitude against any violation of GATT rules.

Hatakeyama said Japan has played a positive role in the trade talks, while admitting Japan could have been somewhat put on the defensive as far as farm issues are concerned.

Asked about Japan's role in resolving the U.S.-EC farm dispute, Hatakeyama said that Japan, the world's largest importer of farm products, has not a direct stake in exporters' subsidies.

Boost in Microchip Imports From Europe Planned

OW2905123792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1214 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 KYODO—Japanese semiconductor users will send a mission to Europe later this year to boost Japanese imports of European microchips, an industry association said Friday.

The Electronic Industries Association of Japan said the plan was adopted at its general meeting held on the day.

The mission is a part of a new program to expand imports of foreign-made semiconductors, set by the association prior to Japan-U.S. semiconductor trade talks slated for next Thursday and Friday in Tokyo.

Under the program, the association will invite representatives of smaller U.S. semiconductor makers which do not have sales bases in Japan to conduct negotiations with Japanese users.

To this end, it also decided to open a business representative office in California in June.

Japan last year signed a semiconductor trade pact with the United States, including a provision that foreign makers can expect a 20 percent share of the Japanese market by the end of this year.

The association said the program is in line with the trade pact, and it will explain the program to the American side in next week's semiconductor talks.

Minister Responds to U.S. Chip Trade Concerns

OW2905045092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0434 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 KYODO—Trade Minister Kozo Watanabe said Friday he has written to U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills to try to allay growing U.S. frustration over stagnant sales of foreign semiconductors in Japan.

Watanabe told a news conference that he explained in the letter that the reason for the poor sales is the slumping market, not an inadequate Japanese effort as the U.S. believes. The letter from the international trade and industry minister, sent Monday, was in response to a letter he received from Hills on May 8.

Washington has become increasingly irritated at the slow penetration into the Japanese market by foreign chips, which according to the latest figures stood at 14.4 percent in the final three months of 1991, a rise of just 0.1 percentage point from the previous quarter. A bilateral agreement on chip trade in August 1991 includes a provision that foreign chipmakers can expect a market share of 20 percent by the end of 1992.

Hills, saying the United States is "extremely troubled" by the lack of progress in improving access to the Japanese market, unveiled a plan earlier this week to conduct a two-month review aimed at determining what further must be done to boost sales of foreign chips in Japan.

Watanabe, asked about the domestic economy, said the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) will discuss in June and July economic stimulus measures, including a supplementary budget, which would be in addition to the emergency economic package announced in late March. The LDP talks will set the stage for more concrete discussions over the issue at the extraordinary Diet session to be held after the House of Councillors elections in July, he said.

Satellite Firm To Buy Hughes Aircraft Products

OW2805115192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1049 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 28 (KYODO)—Satellite Japan Corp. (SJC) said Thursday it will buy two communication satellites from Hughes Aircraft Corp. of the United States for 60 billion yen.

The companies will sign a contract soon, company officials said.

The first satellite, which will carry 24 transponders and transmit communication signals on the KU-band frequency, is scheduled to be launched into orbit June 1994 and begin service the following month, they said.

The second satellite will be equipped with more than six transponders and will be launched in December the same year, the officials said.

Satellite Japan, partly owned by Nissho Iwai Corp. and Sumitomo Corp., competes against rivals Japan Communications Satellite Co. and Space Communications Corp. in the Japanese market.

Trade Council Records Trade Surplus for 1992

OW2905130092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1231 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 (KYODO)—Japan's trade surplus for fiscal 1992 will top 100 billion dollars on a customs clearance basis for the first time, the Japan Foreign Trade Council predicted Friday.

In a revised forecast on Japan's trade for the year that started on April 1, the council said exports will total 342 billion dollars, up 6.7 percent from the previous year, while imports will amount to 240 billion dollars, up 3.3 percent.

The export estimate was up 7.5 billion dollars from a previous forecast the Industrial Council made last November, while the import forecast was down 11 billion dollars.

It said Japan will have a trade surplus of 102 billion dollars, up 15.5 percent from the previous year.

The council attributed the higher export estimate to an acceleration in the U.S. and West European economic recoveries and the lower import forecast to a delayed Japanese economic recovery.

By item, the council raised its projection for machinery exports by 4.2 billion dollars to 259 billion dollars and that for exports of transport equipment, such as automobiles, by 4.1 billion dollars to 85.5 billion dollars.

The import estimate for manufactured goods, such as chemicals and textiles, was cut by 9 billion dollars to 123 billion dollars, and that for fossil fuels was reduced by 4.2 billion dollars to 52.5 billion dollars.

Takeshita Urges Self-Help by Aid Recipients

OW2905140392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1316 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] New York, May 29 (KYODO)—Former Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita on Friday said nations which receive financial assistance must be prepared to help themselves if such aid is to be truly effective.

Takeshita made the comment in reference to former Soviet republics and nations of Eastern Europe at a meeting among former finance ministers and central bankers of the Group of Seven (G-7) economic powers.

The former prime minister expressed support for the 24 billion dollar aid package for Russia approved last month by the G-7, saying international assistance is vital to nations shifting toward a market economy.

But citing Japan's effort to rebuild its economy after World War II, Takeshita said economic reform in former communist countries is their only hope.

He also called for enhancement of global captial savings, including a reduction of fiscal deficits among industrialized countries, to meet the huge demand from developing nations and for global environmental measures.

Takeshita stressed the need to seriously consider Japan's proposal on new allocation of special drawing rights (SDRS) in light of the global capital shortage shortage.

The proposal was presented to the Interim Committee of the International Monetary Fund in April 1990 by then Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto.

With respect to the stalled Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), Takeshita warned of the immeasurable impact on the world economy should the negotiations fail.

Tokyo To Recall Ambassador From Yugoslavia

OW2905095392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0942 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 (KYODO)—Japan plans to recall its ambassador to Yugoslavia in line with actions by the European Community (EC) and the United States against Serbia's involvement in fighting in Bosnia-Hercegovina, a Foreign Ministry spokesman indicated Friday.

Spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa told reporters that Ambassador Taizo Nakamura, who is now in Tokyo on personal leave, will return to Belgrade on Saturday but come home soon afterwards "for consultations."

Ministry sources said Nakamura will be returning to Belgrade to prepare for an extended absence.

The sources explained the envoy had not prepared to be away from Belgrade for an extended period of time when he took an unanticipated leave several weeks ago so his wife could be hospitalized in Japan.

"Since then the situation over there has deteriorated and ambassadors of the EC and like-minded countries have left Belgrade," said one source. "Under such circumstances, Japan is likely to take a similar measure."

Hanabusa said Japan would support a planned United Nations Security Council resolution imposing sanctions on Serbia.

"We believe the world community, in the form of Security Council resolutions, should make it clear to the Serbian leadership that they're required to do their utmost to improve the present situation," the spokesman said.

The resolution is expected to include an economic embargo on Serbia and its ally Montenegro, including oil shipments, a freeze on external assets, and a suspension of flights to and from Belgrade.

It is intended to punish the two republics, who have declared themselves the successor to Yugoslavia, for their role in the fighting in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

When asked by a foreign correspondent about the alleged involvement in the fighting by Croatia's Army, Hanabusa said, "In the eyes of the international community it is obvious that it is the Serbians who must change."

Honda To Launch Motorcycle Venture in China

OW2605101692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0934 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Honda Motor Co., the world's top motorcycle maker, announced Tuesday it will launch a joint motorcycle manufacturing and marketing venture in China this summer.

The company said the venture will be launched on August 1 in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, with Guangzhou Motorcycle Co.

It will be the first full-scale joint motorcycle venture to be undertaken by a Chinese enterprise and a foreign partner, the company said.

The new firm, Wuyang-Honda Motors (Guangzhou) Co. capitalized at 17.6 million dollars, will produce 125-cc motorcycles.

Production in 1992 is estimated at 50,000 motorcycles and will be expanded each year, the company said.

The new venture will be 35 percent owned by Honda and 65 percent by Guangzhou Motorcycle. It will initially employ 1,400 workers, the company said.

Banks Plan To Extend $26 Million Loan to China

OW2605113092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1006 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Five Japanese banks have agreed to extend a 26 million dollar coordinated loan to China for the organization of infrastructure, bank officials said Tuesday.

Officials of Sakura Bank said China Trust and Investment Co. for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade plans to apply the funds to infrastructural projects in southern China, including a project to construct an electric power plant in Guangzhou.

Of the overall sum, Sakura Bank will extend 6,334,000 dollars, Dai-Ichi Kangyo and Sumitomo banks 6,333,300 dollars each, Chuo Trust and Banking 4 million dollars, and Yasuda Trust and Banking 3 million dollars.

The interest rate will be the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) plus 0.5 percentage point. The grace period on the seven-year loan will be set at three years.

Conference on Aid to Mongolia Concludes 29 May

OW2905051292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0453 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 KYODO—A two-day international conference on aid to Mongolia ended here Friday with pledges of about 320 million dollars in new aid for 1992-1993. The aid pledged by donor nations and organizations at the 2nd Mongolia assistance group meeting comes on top of 155 million dollars in emergency aid pledged to Mongolia at the last such meeting in Tokyo in September. Of the amount promised at the more recent meeting, Japan pledged to contribute 67 million dollars in loans and grants to help Mongolia implement reforms aimed at democratization and transformation to a market economy.

Just before the start of the meeting Thursday, Japan agreed with Mongolia to provide 2.3 billion yen (about 17.5 million dollars) in grant aid to help cover its balance-of-payments gap and address its food needs through the end of 1992. During the meeting, Japan pledged an additional 50 million dollars in loans to finance projects next year in fields such as transportation, communications, and energy.

Representatives of 17 countries and five international organizations are attending the meeting, which is being cochaired by Japan and the World Bank. A joint news release issued by the cochairs said the attending delegates "expressed continued support for Mongolia's economic stabilization and reform efforts" and stressed the importance of "sustaining and deepening" the efforts in the period immediately ahead. It said they endorsed Mongolia's efforts "to look beyond stabilization towards further structural reforms designed to enhance private sector and foreign direct investment."

The donors lauded Mongolia for having effectively and efficiently utilized aid provided at last September's meeting to finance critical imports for the second half of 1991. "While recognizing that additional quick-dispersing aid would still be needed in 1992, they welcomed the (Mongolian) authorities' intention to seek external assistance for development projects as soon as possible," the release said. The release said that estimated disbursements, including resources committed last year but not yet dispersed as well as new commitments, are expected to meet Mongolia's 75 million dollar minimum estimated needs for the balance of 1992.

World Bank and Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said they were unable to provide a breakdown of the total 320 million dollars by country or international organization.

But the Japanese officials said Japan's share was the largest among the eight countries that announced pledges, while the pledge from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) was the largest among the four pledging international organizations.

Japan provided 61 million dollars of the 155 million dollars pledged by participants at last September's conference, with more than half of that aid coming in the form of commodity loans and the rest in grants.

Aside from the ADB's offer of aid, pledges were also made at the second meeting by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the European Community.

About half of the World Bank's pledged funds were in project loans and the rest in nonproject loans, officials said. They said Japan and the ADB would cooperate on some projects.

Officials said that to meet Mongolia's 75 million dollar balance-of-payments needs for the remainder of 1992, Japan pledged 17.5 million dollars, the United States pledged 16 million dollars, the ADB pledged 15 million dollars, Germany pledged 6 million dollars, and the IMF pledged 4.5 million dollars.

Other countries, including Britain, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and South Korea pledged smaller amounts.

Mongolian Premier Hails Tokyo's Aid Initiative

OW2905102492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1011 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 (KYODO)—Mongolian Prime Minister Dashiyn Byambasuren on Friday praised Japan's initiatives in an international conference on aid to Mongolia, which ended with pledges of about 320 million dollars in new aid for 1992-1993.

Byambasuren told a press conference that Japan's initiative in holding the conference "shows that Japan, as an industrialized nation in Asia, acknowledges having a great responsibility for the security, stability and prosperity of the region."

He said Mongolia's relationship with Japan has seen remarkable development recently, and added that he is willing to "welcome any proposal that would expand" its ties with Japan, which "proved to be a trustworthy partner" at a point when Mongolia is at a complicated stage of history.

"Mongolia's economic reform is advancing considerably, and it is now at a point where there is no turning back in its shift to a market-oriented economy," Byambasuren said.

Mongolia's economy, however, is in severe difficulties because of confusion that accompanies the transformation to a market-oriented economy, as well as changes in the international situation surrounding Mongolia, such as the dissolution of the former Soviet Union, he said.

The 49-year-old prime minister said Mongolia will use the assistance from the donors at the aid conference to overcome the economic crisis and to establish a basis for economic development.

The two-day Second Mongolia Assistance Group Meeting, jointly chaired by Japan and the World Bank, drew representatives of 17 countries and five international organizations.

The aid pledged at the meeting comes on top of 155 million dollars in emergency aid pledged to Mongolia at the last such meeting in Tokyo last September.

Japan this time pledged to contribute over 67 million dollars in loans and grants to help Mongolia implement reforms aimed at democratization and transformation to a market economy.

Of the total, 17.5 million dollars is to help cover its balance-of-payments gap and address its food needs through the end of 1992, while 50 million dollars is to finance projects next year in fields such as transportation, communications and energy.

Byambasuren at the press conference called for Japanese private companies to invest in Mongolia, citing plans to set up special economic zones in six areas, particularly its northern and southern border areas.

He also said Mongolia is willing to promote its tourism industry but is unable to take specific measures because of the lack of funds to complete facilities to receive the tourists.

Mongolia Supports Tokyo Security Council Bid

OW2905122892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1155 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 KYODO—Mongolian Prime Minister Dashiyn Byambasuren told Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Friday that Mongolia will support Japan's bid for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council.

Byambasuren told Miyazawa in a half-hour meeting that if Japan's desires to join the Security Council as a permanent member, Mongolia would "welcome that and lend our heartfelt support."

The Mongolian leader was in Tokyo attending the second Mongolia assistance group meeting, which concluded its two days of talks Friday with pledges of 320 million dollars in aid for Mongolia through 1993.

Japan is now on the 15-member Security Council in one of its 10 nonpermanent, rotating seats.

Miyazawa said in January at a Security Council summit meeting that the body, which is now dominated by the five victorious powers of World War II, should be restructured to adjust to the changed times.

Japanese officials said they were pleasantly surprised to hear Byambasuren's strong pledge of support.

Last March, Croatian Foreign Minister Zvonimir Separovic made a similar statement of support during a visit here.

Byambasuren was quoted as also telling Miyazawa that Mongolia is currently facing its toughest economic crisis ever.

He said, however, that with Japan's assistance, Mongolia will surely overcome its crisis and "become a country that will be of benefit to Japan."

Officials said Byambasuren thanked Japan for it pledges of some 67.5 million dollars in grants and loans at the aid conference.

He also lauded Japan for pressing for a relaxation of restrictions on high-technology equipment transfers to Mongolia under the Coordinating Committee of Multilateral Export Controls (Cocom) regulations.

Miyazawa said that Japan would continue to stress economic support for Mongolia at the annual meetings of the seven major industrialized nations, the next one of which is to be held in Munich on July 6-8.

Officials said Japan has decided to send Mongolia 1,000 word processors to assist efforts under way there to teach schoolchildren how to read and write the Mongolian script.

The Cyrillic alphabet used in the Russian language has been in wide use in Mongolia owing to decades of Soviet influence.

Officials said a cultural grant of about 30 million yen would go towards financing the purchase and provision of word processors especially designed to utilize the Mongolian script.

20th Anniversary of Tel Aviv Massacre Marked

OW2905132092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1305 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 (KYODO)—The Japanese Red Army marked the 20th anniversary of its terrorist attack on Lod International Airport in Tel Aviv with a May 30 declaration that it will clear the way for the "people's revolution" in the coming century.

In letters received by Tokyo intellectuals Friday, the Red Army, whose members are now mostly in their mid-40s, declared, "Looking forward to the 21st century, clear the path for the era of the victory of the people's revolution."

Saturday will mark the 20th anniversary when three members of the Red Army went on a machine-gun and hand grenade rampage in Tel Aviv, killing 26 and wounding 72.

Two of the terrorists were gunned down by Israeli security forces but Kozo Okamoto, now 44, was captured and later released in 1985 in an Israeli prisoner exchange with Palestinians.

Fusako Shigenobu, 46, the leader of the extremist group, is still on an international wanted list.

The lengthy declaration, over 30 pages on a Japanese word processor, reportedly said the Red Army has undergone self-criticism over the last 20 years in the Middle East and remarked that "socialism has not developed correctly " with regard to the fall of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Japanese police officials said they are still closely monitoring the movements of the Red Army, reportedly based in Lebanon, since the terrorist organization has not completely abandoned armed struggle as a means to bring about revolution.

The Red Army was involved in attacks on the U.S., Canadian and Japanese embassies in Jakarta in 1986, as well as the kidnapping in Manila of the local head of Mitsui and Co.

Italian authorities alleged Red Army members were involved in the 1988 bombing of a U.S. military club in Naples which killed five, but the organization denied the charges.

This latest declaration remarked that in the aftermath of the Lod massacre, international anti-imperialist forces have united and the revolution in Japan has progressed.

Through this process, "we have learned the necessity of self-criticism through ideological struggle," the declaration said.

Of the communist world, the letter said that the Communist Party must not grab power for its own purposes but must create a society which is based on the self-rule of the people.

Tokyo To Provide Grant-in-Aid for Cambodia

OW2905041892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0334 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 KYODO—Japan has decided to provide Cambodia with a grant-in-aid of up to 500 million yen to help the war-torn country boost its food production, the Foreign Ministry said Friday. The aid represents the first Japanese grant-in-aid to Cambodia since 1973, the ministry said. The ministry said Cambodia will use the money to buy fertilizers, agricultural chemicals, and farm machinery.

LDP, Komeito, DSP Agree on Peacekeeping Bill

OW2905134692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1337 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 (KYODO)—The governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and two opposition parties are set to vote in the House of Councillors next week on a modified bill to send Japanese troops abroad to join United Nations peacekeeping operations.

The LDP, Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) agreed Friday to enact the bill during the current 150-day ordinary session of the Diet, which is due to close June 21, official of the parties said.

In a meeting Friday, the parties' secretaries general agreed to require prior Diet approval before Self-Defense Forces (SDF) troops could be sent on U.N. peacekeeping missions.

The modified bill would also delay SDF participation in U.N. peacekeeping forces for some time and call for a review of the legislation three years after its enactment, the officials said.

Komeito Secretary General Yuichi Ichikawa told reporters the parties will submit the revised bill to the upper house Monday.

Many political sources said the vote will take place June 4 at the earliest.

The LDP, Komeito and DSP hold a combined 144 seats in the 252- seat house, well above a majority.

However, the bill will need approval again from the more powerful House of Representatives to become law since the lower chamber passed it without the modifications.

Meanwhile, the Social Democratic Party (SDP), the No. 1 opposition party, called for more deliberations in the upper house, threatening to resort to filibuster tactics if a vote is forced.

The Japanese Communist Party (JCP) is poised to support the SDP, while minor party Rengo Sangiin could not fix its position.

Prior to their session, the secretaries general of the LDP, DSP, and Komeito jointly met with their counterpart from the SDP to urge the party to agree on taking a vote.

SDP Secretary General Sadao Yamahana, however, renewed the party's call for "careful deliberations" and vowed to submit no-confidence motions against the cabinet or adopt go-slow voting tactics, the officials said.

Yamahana said it is the right for a minority group to protest against a key bill.

"The amended bill does not change anything in essence," he said, as it still allows SDF personnel to participate in peacekeeping operations, which the SDP says would violate the war-renouncing Constitution.

Later in the day, Komeito's Ichikawa told reporters his party, the LDP and DSP also agreed SDF personnel should be banned from some "crucial" aspects of peacekeeping, pending consensus from the Japanese people.

He said these include situations when U.N. forces seek to separate warring factions and monitor a cease-fire between them.

The three parties also agreed the United Nations should command Japanese peacekeeping troops, who will not participate in logistics operations.

Ichikawa said he expects the revised bill to pass the upper house by the end of next week.

Rengo Sangiin Undecided on Peacekeeping Bill

OW2805115592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1046 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 28 (KYODO)—Rengo Sangiin, a minor opposition party in the House of Councillors, balked Thursday on a call from the Social Democratic Party (SDP) to jointly oppose a government proposed bill that would open the way for Self-Defense Forces [SDF] to join U.N. peacekeeping missions abroad, party officials said.

Yasumatsu Hoshikawa, leader of the 13-member Rengo Sangiin, told SDP Chairman Makoto Tanabe that his group will make a final decision on the bill after studying a modified version to be submitted soon to the Diet.

Rengo Sangiin is affiliated with the country's largest labor organization Rengo, or the Japanese trade union confederation, which also throws support behind both the SDP and Democratic Socialist Party.

The SDP threatens to resist the passage of the bill through the second chamber, while the DSP, along with the governing Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] and Komeito, are set to vote in support of it.

The SDP has tried to woo Rengo Sangiin into its corner to block the LDP's hope to have passed in the current Diet session the bill that would involve the participation of SDF personnel in the U.N. peacekeeping efforts. The current Diet session will last until June 21.

In response to Tanabe's call for a joint stand, Hoshikawa merely reaffirmed Rengo Sangiin will continue to exchange views with the SDP over the handling of the bill.

Miyazawa Accepts Proposed PKO Bill Amendment

OW2805130392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1244 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 28 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Thursday accepted a modification of a government-proposed peacekeeping operations bill, setting the stage for its early passage through the House of Councillors, officials said.

The modification plan, proposed by the second-largest opposition party, Komeito, and the fourth-largest Democratic Socialist Party, would require prior Diet approval before Japanese Self-Defense Forces (SDF) troops would be sent on United Nations peacekeeping operations.

The joint modified plan would also delay SDF participation in peacekeeping forces for some time.

Miyazawa and his governing Liberal Democratic Party need support from both Komeito and the DSP to secure passage of the bill through the opposition-controlled second chamber. The three parties' combined strength in the 252-seat upper chamber stands at 144, well above a simple majority.

Miyazawa, who is also LDP president, expressed his intention to accept the Komeito-DSP proposal during a series of meetings held separately with leaders of four opposition parties.

Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida quoted Miyazawa as saying, "I want to tell you as LDP president, the government will accept the amendment and I will ask the (Liberal Democratic) Party to accept it."

Komeito and the DSP have already agreed to demand that the bill require prior Diet approval to send SDF personnel on UN missions, and have given the nod to dropping a clause on Japan's participation in the UN peacekeeping forces. The two parties have also approved UN command over Japanese personnel on peacekeeping duties.

In addition, the middle-of-the-road parties have agreed that the bill should pass through the current Diet session, which runs until June 21.

Apart from Ishida, Miyazawa had separate meetings with Social Democratic Party Chairman Makoto Tanabe, Japanese Communist Party Presidium Chairman Tetsuzo Fuwa, and DSP Chairman Keigo Ouchi.

Tanabe told Miyazawa that the SDP opposes the peacekeeping operations bill.

Tanabe noted that majority of the Japanese people do not support the dispatch of troops abroad, officials said.

Miyazawa told Tanabe that ruling and opposition parties have had enough time to discuss the bill and he wanted a vote on the bill in the upper house.

The bill is currently pending at the second chamber following its passage last December through the more powerful House of Representatives.

But the bill, if amended and cleared through the upper house, must again be passed by the lower chamber.

SDP's Tanabe discussed a tentative LDP plan to redress the difference in the weight of votes among constituencies caused by migration to urban areas.

Tanabe, in the meeting with Miyazawa at his official residence, called for the LDP to clarify its proposal and officially introduce it soon to allow sufficient time for Diet debate, officials said.

Miyazawa favors a plan that would add nine House of Representatives seats in more populous constituencies, and eliminate 10 seats in other areas to reduce the vote imbalance.

The prime minister hopes to submit an election reform bill to the current Diet session for debate before the June 21 adjournment.

Miyazawa has run into opposition, however, from some LDP lawmakers who fear the plan will harm their reelection chances.

The measure has been depicted as a stopgap move.

The Supreme Court has ruled that a more than three-to-one disparity in the value of votes is unconstitutional.

Miyazawa has pledged to unveil by November a comprehensive political reform program aimed at reducing the cost of campaigning and redressing the vote disparity.

Diet Confrontation Said Likely Over PKO Bill

OW2905062892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0600 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 KYODO—The possibility of a sharp confrontation between supporters and opponents of a government bill to send Japanese troops overseas for U.N. peacekeeping missions looms in the Diet in the week beginning May 31.

Political sources said the main opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP), which opposes the bill along with the Japanese Communist Party (JCP), may employ delaying tactics to slow its passage through the House of Councillors. The two parties say any overseas dispatch of the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) would contravene the Constitution, which bans the use of force as a means of settling international disputes.

China, North and South Korea, and some other Asian countries which were invaded by Japanese troops before and during World War II have expressed concerns about the bill.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa met SDP and JCP leaders Thursday in an apparently futile effort to win their support for the U.N. Peacekeeping Cooperation Bill pending in the opposition-controlled upper chamber. The House of Representatives approved it in December.

The stage was set on Thursday for passage of the bill through the upper house, when Miyazawa accepted its modification demanded by two centrist parties—Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), the second-largest and fourth-largest opposition parties. The two parties had demanded that prior Diet approval be required each time SDF personnel are sent overseas on U.N. peacekeeping operations (PKO), and freezing SDF participation in U.N. peacekeeping forces (PKF) for the time being.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) desperately needs the support of these parties for the passage of the bill as the combined strength of the three parties in the 252-seat upper house is 144, well above a simple majority. Miyazawa told opposition leaders Thursday that the bill has fully been debated and a conclusion must be reached, indicating his resolve to put the bill to a vote next week.

On the diplomatic front, Japan and the United States will hold two days of regular semiconductor talks in Tokyo starting Thursday, June 4. The talks follow a U.S. announcement Wednesday that the U.S. Government is launching a review of the 1991 semiconductor trade agreement with Japan.

U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills said, "We are extremely troubled by the lack of progress in improving access to the Japanese market for foreign semiconductors."

The agreement, aimed at expanding sales of foreign-made chips in Japan, includes a provision that foreign makers can expect a 20 percent share of the Japanese market by the end of this year. According to latest U.S. trade figures, foreign-made semiconductor products, mostly from the United States, had a 14.4 percent share of the market in the final quarter of last year. Japanese figures put it at 16.1 percent. Analysts said sales of foreign-made chips in Japan are not expected to reach the 20 percent target by the end of this year.

The U.S. Semiconductor Industry Association, welcoming the U.S. decision to review the accord, said the action is "one more indication that Japan must take immediate steps to improve access to its semiconductor market." The U.S. decision was accepted coolly by Japanese chip makers. An industry leader said, "A 20 percent foreign share in the Japanese market is not a pledge but an expected figure."

Next week also sees a three-day international workshop from Monday to discuss ways of promoting transparency of possession and trade of armaments, to be attended by 31 people from 24 countries. The workshop, the first of its kind, stems from a proposal by former Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama at the U.N. General Assembly last September. The Tokyo meeting will also review the newly established U.N. Register of Conventional Arms, discuss its immediate objectives and prospects for future expansion of its coverage to encompass such things as national military stockpiles and procurement through national production.

Foreign dignitaries visiting Tokyo next week include South African President F.W. de Klerk, who arrives Wednesday, June 3, for a four-day official visit, the first ever by a president of that country. Japan lifted most of its sanctions against South Africa last year in response to De Klerk's campaign to end apartheid and reopened full diplomatic relations with it this January after a 50-year break.

LDP To Leave PKO Bill Issue to Party Chief

OW2905053092 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 29 May 92

[From the "NHK News" program]

[Text] The Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], in its executive meeting held this morning, decided to leave the issue of amending the UN Peacekeeping Operations [PKO] Cooperation Bill, a focal point of the Diet session, entirely up to Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki.

A secretaries general meeting of the LDP, Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party is scheduled to be held this afternoon to discuss the PKO issue. In the meeting, the secretaries general of the three parties are expected to make final coordination concerning the issue of revising the PKO bill. The revision includes freezing Japan's participation in UN peacekeeping forces and obtaining prior Diet approval for participation. Prior to this meeting, LDP's top executives, in the meeting this morning, exchanged views on the bill and discussed how the bill should be handled in the future. They then confirmed that the issue should be left entirely to Secretary General Watanuki. Prior to the secretaries general meeting to be held this afternoon, the four LDP executives, including Secretary General Watanuki, are expected to again hold a meeting to make a final coordination on the amendment of the bill.

Meanwhile, speaking at a meeting held for LDP candidates for the forthcoming upper house election at the party's headquarters, LDP Vice President Shin Kanemaru said that it was a matter of course that Japan adopt the PKO bill to contribute to the international community as much as possible. He then criticized the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] for opposing every government policy and expressed doubt about the capability of the SDPJ as the largest opposition party. In this way, Kanemaru reiterated his criticism of the SDPJ, which continues to oppose the PKO bill.

Kanemaru: SDP Not Qualified To Take Power

OW2905050692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0425 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 KYODO—Shin Kanemaru, vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), said Friday that the largest opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) is not qualified to take the reins of government. Kanemaru made the remarks in a meeting of LDP candidates who will run in the House of Councillors elections in July.

Kanemaru criticized the SDP for its stiff opposition to the government-sponsored United Nations Peacekeeping Operations Cooperation Bill, saying the Self-Defense Forces did good work in removing mines from the Persian Gulf after the end of the Gulf war. He also said the SDP is not qualified to take power because it opposes everything.

The upper house is likely to vote next week on the bill aimed at allowing the dispatch of Japanese forces overseas on U.N. peacekeeping missions. The SDP, along with the Japanese Communist Party, is opposed to the bill. The LDP and the two centrist opposition parties—Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party—agreed to pass the bill through the opposition-controlled upper chamber after modifying it.

Meanwhile, SDP Chairman Makoto Tanabe predicted that if the SDP maintains its strong opposition to the bill, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa would dissolve the House of Representatives and call for simultaneous Diet elections. In a meeting of SDP members of the lower house, Tanabe said he does not think Miyazawa has the resolve and courage to hold twin elections. Tanabe also said, however, that the government might do all it can if the SDP sticks to its staunch position against the bill.

LDP Seeks Ban on Poll Results Media Forecasts

OW2905145192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1424 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 (KYODO)—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on Friday proposed banning media forecasts of election results at the final stage of campaigns.

Opposition parties, however, were cautious toward the plan, which would involve revising the public office election law that sets the guiding principles for campaigning, officials said.

The LDP plan, presented to the opposition during Friday's session of an interparty council on political reform, calls for the ban on vote predictions, including those based on opinion polls, by the media for the last seven days of election campaigns, as well as voting day.

It also seeks imposition of a maximum prison term of two years or a fine of up to 100,000 yen on people responsible for violations of the proposed bill.

The existing law bans news organizations from announcing predictions of winners, but allows the publicizing of public opinion polls.

At the interparty discussion, Hajime Ishii, an LDP representatives, was quoted as saying, "Predictions by the media during the last stage of elections have great impact on whether candidates win or lose."

The No. 2 opposition party Komeito and the Japanese Communist Party objected to the LDP proposal and sought prudence in handling of the matter, the officials said.

The United Social Democratic Party, a minor opposition group, demanded further consideration of ways to restrict media coverage, they said.

While acknowledging the importance of fairness in elections, the No. 1 opposition party, the Social Democratic Party, reportedly told the meeting its leadership will study the proposal carefully.

Ishii said media predictions influence the final returns, adding that the success or failure of candidates was determined by a margin of some 1,000 votes in eight constituencies at the last general election for the House of Representatives in 1990.

Council Agrees To Shorten Election Campaigning

OW2905140192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1327 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 (KYODO)—An interparty political reform council agreed Friday to shorten the period of election campaigns, parliamentary sources said.

Representatives of the governing Liberal Democratic Party and opposition parties reached the agreement at a working-level meeting of the interparty council, the sources said.

The council agreed to shorten campaigning for House of Representatives elections to 14 days from the current 15, and for House of Councillors elections to 17 from 18 days, they said.

Gubernatorial election campaigns will be reduced to 17 days from 20 days, while mayoral campaigns in major cities will be shortened to 14 days from 15, they said.

The council will submit a bill to amend the Public Offices Election Law to the current Diet session lasting through June 21, the sources said.

If approved, the new rule will be applied starting with the upper house election this July.

The ruling and opposition parties also agreed to oblige political organizations to make public their assets in land, buildings, savings and securities, they said.

Ministry Says Banks Can Meet BIS Target

OW2905050492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0426 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 KYODO—Japan's 11 major commercial banks can achieve international capital requirements "without much difficulty," a senior official at the Ministry of Finance (MOF) said Friday.

Masaaki Tsuchida, chief of the ministry's Banking Bureau, told a House of Councillors committee that all the banks, known in Japan as "city banks," had achieved an interim target by the end of March of a capital-to-assets ratio of 7.25 percent. The target was set by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), which is requiring banks to have a ratio of 8 percent by the end of March next year.

Tsuchida also said there are several ways for banks to further expand their capital base, such as issues of securities and subordinated bonds.

Miyazawa on Possibility of Supplementary Budget

OW2805123892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1142 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 28 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa suggested Thursday that the government will consider compiling a supplementary budget if recently implemented pump-priming measures fail to stimulate the economy, government officials said.

In a meeting with Social Democratic Party (SDP) Chairman Makoto Tanabe, Miyazawa also suggested that additional stimulation measures may be required, the officials said.

Miyazawa expressed reservations, however, on the possibility of the government issuing deficit-covering bonds to raise funds for the supplementary budget.

Miyazawa also expressed doubts about Tanabe's proposal for an income tax cut of more than 1 trillion yen under the extra budget, the officials said.

MITI Predicts No Economic Recovery by Dec

OW2905100692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0902 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 (KYODO)—Japan's economy may not recover from the current slowdown by the end of this year, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) predicted Friday in its quarterly report on industrial production.

Comparing inventory adjustment patterns in the past, Eiichi Ono, chief of the ministry's Statistics Analysis Division, said it is unlikely that production will recover during the July-September or October-December quarters.

The report, analyzing trends of output at factories and mines during the January-March period, said industrial production may remain sluggish for some time because of decreasing shipments of finished products, which kept inventory levels rather high.

Industrial output in the January-March period dropped 3.1 percent from the previous three-month period, down 4.7 percent from a year earlier, while shipments posted a 1.4 percent decline from the quarter before and a 2.7 percent yearly fall, the report said.

On a year-on-year comparison, both production and shipments dropped for the second straight quarter, the longest period of decline since they fell for four consecutive quarters from the April-June period in 1974 through the January-March period in 1975, it said.

Inventories at the end of March fell 1.9 percent from three months earlier, declining for the first time in six quarters. Inventories entered into an adjustment phase in the January-March quarter, but the adjustment could take time because of still-high levels of inventories, it said.

Ono said it is difficult to forecast when the inventory adjustment phase will finish without seeing future trends in demand and production, and that the adjustment may not proceed at the current pace.

In the past, inventories dropped rapidly during the first quarter of the adjustment phase, but afterward they declined moderately or even bounced back temporarily, he said.

The report predicted the economy will recover around the April-June quarter of 1993 if the inventory adjustment goes at the same speed as during the last economic slowdown triggered by the yen's appreciation.

The economic recovery may take place in the July-September period next year if the inventory adjustment advances at the same pace as that during the second oil crisis, the report said.

Ono was not optimistic either about the labor market, saying the present situation was not so tight or was rather on an easing trend.

Since companies currently cope with production declines by cutting overtime working hours instead of adjusting employment, it is necessary to carefully watch the future trend in the supply and demand situation of labor, he said.

Bank Chief Sees No Hike in Long-Term Rates

OW2905034592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0331 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 KYODO—Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno reported to an economic ministerial conference Friday that he does not expect long-term interest rates to rise above current levels, the head of the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said. Mieno's remarks were related by EPA Director General Takeshi Noda after Friday's regular cabinet meeting.

The central bank governor's comments came in the wake of a recent decision by the nation's three long-term credit banks to raise their long-term prime rate for June by 0.3 percentage point. A trend in long-term rates is viewed as crucial to economic recovery since their levels affect corporate capital spending, a pillar of economic growth.

Noda also told reporters that the current economic slowdown is close to running its course because there are signs that the pace of the slowdown is losing momentum. Asked about a recent call by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party for additional fiscal measures to boost the economy, Noda said the government is "considering carefully whether and when" to take such measures. But he stopped short of expressing his own view on whether such measures are necessary, while noting that it would take more time to see the economic impact of an emergency package of pump-priming measures announced last March.

Macroeconomic Framework Set for Five-Year Plan

OW2905082792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0810 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 (KYODO)—A subcommittee of the Economic Council, the prime minister's blue-ribbon advisory body, has set down a macroeconomic framework for the government's new five-year economic plan, government officials said Friday.

The medium-term plan, which started in April 1992, anticipates 3.5 percent average annual growth in the real gross national product (GNP) during the five-year period.

The council is scheduled to present a recommendation on the new five-year plan to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa in mid-June, the officials said.

They said that on a nominal basis, the economy will grow at an annual pace of 5 percent, according to estimates by the subcommittee headed by Minoru Nagaoka, president of the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

The 3.5 percent real GNP growth rate envisages a average 3.75 percent rise in domestic demand and a 0.25 percent fall in external factors, they said.

The new five-year plan anticipates a 2 percent rise in consumer prices, a 0.25 percent gain in wholesale prices, and an unemployment rate of 2.25 percent, the officials said.

Business Index Shows Economy Still Slowing

OW2605075492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0651 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Japan's leading business index stood at 40.9 in March to stay below the "boom-or-bust" 50.0 line for the 19th month in a row, the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said in a preliminary report Tuesday.

A reading above 50.0 is regarded as a signal that the economy will expand, while a figure below that is viewed as a sign that the economy will contract. The leading index is designed to predict economic activities three to six months ahead.

An EPA official said some signs of recovery are beginning to appear, citing improvements in housing and inventory figures.

In February, the figure was 33.3 and in January, 25.0. Both are preliminary statistics.

In March, indicators on inventory, housing starts, machinery orders, and shipments of durable goods improved from the year-earlier levels.

Eleven of the 13 indicators were available for the preliminary report.

The official speculated that even better figures could come out for April but the statistics may weaken again in May for technical reasons.

The coincident index, which shows current economic conditions, stood at 22.2, mainly due to sluggish production-related items. It was the 13th successive month for the coincident index to stay below 50.0.

The figure in preliminary reports was 22.2 in February and 0.0 in January.

The lagging index, which indicates past business performance, fell to 33.3, down from a preliminary 78.6 in February and 42.9 in January. Labor-related statistics dragged down the index, the official said.

The EPA said in the monthly report that as far as the indicators show, the nation's economy is continuing to slow down in broad areas.

Law Passed To Bolster Public Works Investment

OW2905032392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0303 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 29 KYODO—The House of Councillors approved a bill Friday to designate "local core cities" as beneficiaries of preferential tax and fiscal privileges in line with Japan's international pledge to pump 430 trillion yen into public works projects. The law, entitled "The Regional Core City Development Law," was passed with the backing of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the Social Democratic Party (SDP), Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP).

Under the new law, 50 to 80 relatively large cities would be named, over the next 10 years, as recipients of preferential fiscal and financial measures to expedite construction of roads, public housing facilities, sewage systems, and other public works projects, Construction Ministry officials said. The new law would also encourage business firms to move their business and manufacturing headquarters and branch offices to local cities, rather than concentrating their operations and facilities in Tokyo, the officials said.

The law was passed along with a 430 trillion yen public investment program which Japan agreed to implement after talks with U.S. trade negotiators under the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks. The program is designed to stimulate the Japanese economy, increase public spending, and whittle down the two nations' trade imbalance which currently favors Japan. Six government ministries and agencies, including the Construction, Trade, and Home Affairs Ministries, will set up a joint consultative body through which they would hold talks with autonomous bodies seeking designation under the law, the officials said.

The law empowers the governors of Japan's 47 prefectural governments to designate one or two cities under their administrative jurisdiction as recipients of the fiscal and tax privileges, they said. The law places a limit on the authority of governors to designate since it requires the governors to hold consultations with government ministries and agencies before designating any local core cities as such beneficiaries, they said.

During fiscal 1992 that began on April 1, about seven or eight local cities across the nation will be designated as beneficiaries, they said. The law recommends that the governor name fairly large cities that rank second or third in terms of population, so that the legislation would encourage economic activation in those areas rather than promoting further concentration of the population in prefectures' largest cities, they said.

Since the new legislation was proposed last August, a total of 21 prefectural governments and 34 cities have filed petitions with the government seeking permission for their governors to designate certain cities as recipients of the fiscal privileges.

The city of Isahaya, Nagasaki Prefecture, was the first to lodge its petition for designation immediately after the proposed law surfaced.

The officials said that under the new law, the government will increase the size of its annual allocations of central government revenue to local autonomous bodies to help them repay principal and interest on local municipal bonds they issued to finance public works projects. The law would mandate such an increase in revenue allocations, so that local municipalities can finance some 30 to 55 percent of their revenue raised with such local construction bonds by spending the allocations from the central government, they said.

The law would ease corporate tax burdens for business firms that would move their branch offices or headquarters from Tokyo to local cities by selling off their land holdings in Tokyo's 23 wards, the officials said. The preferential tax treatment would allow such firms to defer and divide up, over up to 20 years, tax payments on profits stemming from a gap between gains from selling-off land holdings in Tokyo and the price paid for new land plots acquired for relocation, they said.

Slowdown Said Easing; Account Surplus Rising

OW2905002692 Tokyo KYODO in English 2357 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 KYODO—The pace of the slowdown in the Japanese economy is easing and the bottom may be near, an Economic Planning Agency (EPA) official said Friday. In a monthly economic report for May submitted Friday to the cabinet meeting, the EPA said the economic slowdown is continuing but softened its description compared with the previous month, when it depicted the economy as increasingly losing its speed.

"That does not mean we are optimistic," but it seems that the economy is bottoming out, the official said.

The EPA said in its report that personal spending is firm, but losing energy. As for goods, consumers are favoring inexpensive products over luxury items, while travelers are supporting spending for services.

The good news, the official said, is that housing starts are showing a mild recovery. But plant and equipment spending is still slumbering, mainly that by manufacturers, the report said.

Industrial output is slumping as inventory adjustment is taking longer time than expected, and the official said the time is not yet ripe to boost production, saying business conditions have not recuperated enough to absorb that. Labor conditions are continuously tight, despite some ease in the shortage, it said.

The EPA also noted the current account surplus is still expanding, compared with previous year levels. Imports are mostly unchanged, but exports are gaining ground. The official attributed the export increase to economic recovery in some developing nations.

As for prices, the EPA said wholesale prices are softening due to easier supply and demand, triggered by the slower economy. Consumer prices are stable, it added.

Hata Seeing 'Some Good Signs' in Economy

OW2905013392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0123 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata said Friday that the overall condition of the Japanese economy is good, but is still heavily burdened by aftereffects of the late 1980's "speculation bubble."

Hata told a news conference after a regularly scheduled cabinet meeting, "we are seeing some good signs" like a recovery in the housing sector. There is a diversity among sectors in the pace of inventory adjustment, he said.

Pointing to the firm labor market, Hata said the economy is on a firm footing overall, but he added that the aftereffects of the so- called bubble economy continue to hang heavily over business conditions. Hata also said the yen's latest upswing is a product of the agreement made among the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial countries during a recent meeting of their top economic policymakers.

"The G-7 had an agreement that the yen should reflect the Japanese economic fundamentals more precisely," Hata said, adding that the currency market is "now moving in that direction."

Yen's Rise Welcomed; Spending Call Rejected

OW2905095592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0944 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 (KYODO)—A top-ranking official of the Ministry of Finance welcomed Friday the yen's rise in foreign exchange trading, while brushing off a call from the ruling party for additional fiscal spending.

Hiroshi Yasuda, vice finance minister, said at a press conference the yen's climb is due to a perception spreading internationally that Japanese economic fundamentals are not as bad as described by the media.

Yasuda said he welcomes the gradual appreciation of the yen in line with the recent agreement among the Group of Seven major industrial countries.

He said the government should continue watching and assessing the effects of measures it has already taken to prop up the flabby economy.

The government announced a fiscal stimulus package March 31 and the Bank of Japan cut the official discount rate April 1.

Yasuda's remarks are seen as yet another cold shoulder to growing calls within the governing Liberal Democratic Party for additional steps to lift the economy, which is yet to show any clear signs of recovery.

Panel Warns Against Debt-Financing Bonds

OW2905015192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0110 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 KYODO—The government should not resume issuing debt-financing bonds despite growing calls for greater outlays to rev up the slowing economy, a powerful government advisory panel said in a report obtained Friday.

The report, to be submitted to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa by the Ad Hoc Commission on Administrative Reform, said holding off on the bonds will help reduce the government's dependence on debt in the fiscal 1993 budget. A copy of the report obtained Friday by KYODO News Service emphasizes the need for the government to stick to an austere fiscal policy by strictly holding down government spending so as to keep its budget in a sound balance.

It comes amid a surge in calls among politicians and businesses for the government to spend more on public works by raising funds through government bonds as a way to prop up the economy. On Wednesday, a key panel within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party appealed to the government for a massive supplementary budget for the current fiscal year to help pump energy into the economy. U.S. Treasury Undersecretary David Mulford also suggested in an interview broadcast Wednesday that Japan should adopt a supplementary budget as soon as possible to keep its economy growing fast.

But the commission's report says the issuance of government bonds must be held in check in order to reduce outstanding government debts and keep the ratio of taxes and social security payments to national income below 50 percent. The ratio, which gauges how much money is taken out of the average person's paycheck for taxes and social security costs, has been rising by and large in recent years as a result of outstanding government debts that are ultimately financed by tax payers.

The government has skipped issuing debt-financing bonds since fiscal 1990, when it eliminated the issue of such bonds for the first time in 15 years. The report says the success in eliminating debt-financing bonds is largely due to efforts to hold down spending growth and strong growth in tax revenues amid the booming economy. It warns that the government may have to rely on debt-financing bonds to finance the budget if it does not cut back spending and streamline administrative management.

Panel Approves Tightening of 'Nonbank' Rules

OW2905042392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0403 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 KYODO—A powerful subcommittee on commerce within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) approved Friday a proposal to tighten rules governing so-called "nonbanks," party officials said. Nonbanks include credit companies and other lending institutions other than banks and insurers.

The endorsement by the Commerce and Industry Division of the LDP's Policy Affairs Research Council gave an impetus to legislation on tighter nonbank controls since many members of the division had been opposing the more stringent rules. The proposal would require nonbanks to report their loans for stock investment, as well as those for real estate investment as required under current rules.

Drafted in close consultation with the Finance Ministry, the proposal will be formally approved by the LDP later this week, setting the stage for the LDP to negotiate with opposition parties on a bill to tighten the controls. But rough going is expected in the interparty negotiations because the largest-opposition Social Democratic Party has pressed for legislation requiring reports on all nonbank loans.

Diet Approves Securities Watchdog Bill 29 May

OW2905030092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0220 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 KYODO—The Diet passed Friday a bill to form a semi-independent securities watchdog body aimed at preventing the recurrence of stock scandals like those that shook the country a year ago. The plenary session of the House of Councillors approved the bill after it was backed Thursday by an upper house panel.

The watchdog group, to be established in mid-July, is primarily intended to more tightly monitor securities companies so they are not involved in misconduct such as insider trading and loss-compensation for investors. When incidents of misconduct are discovered, the body has the power to investigate violations, file charges against those responsible, and propose to the finance minister administrative punishments against the violators.

Government sources said a former prosecutor will likely be appointed as the first head of the new committee. The body is a by-product of last summer's stock scandals, in which major securities companies admitted compensating favored customers for stock losses. Analysts said the scandals revealed a lack of supervision by the Finance Ministry.

The securities industry welcomed the enactment of the bill, calling it a means of paving the way for a fairer stock market in Japan. "(The body) is a necessary step for the market to regain the trust of investors," said an executive of a major brokerage company.

Panel Drafts Insurance Deregulation Report

OW2905110892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1026 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 KYODO—A Ministry of Finance (MOF) advisory panel has drafted proposals aimed at widening the scope of Japanese insurance businesses and further deregulating the nation's financial markets, MOF officials said Friday.

The recommendations call for legal changes that would allow insurance companies to enter the banking and securities businesses through subsidiaries. Banks and brokerages should also gain entry to the insurance field, it said.

It also said life and casualty insurance firms should be allowed to enter into the other's field via subsidiaries or enter directly in the areas of injury, illness and nursing coverage.

The report, compiled by a subcommittee of the MOF's Insurance Council, will serve as an outline for a legislative review leading to the first major reform of Japan's insurance industry in nearly 50 years, a MOF official said.

The ministry hopes to put the revisions into effect around fiscal 1994, but council chairman Shun Aoyama, an advisor to the Saison group of companies, said there is a strong chance the reforms will be delayed.

As for sales activities by insurance companies, the report said the government should permit insurance agents to represent more than one company.

Only a "direct writer" who represents one company and sells only its policies are currently allowed under the insurance law.

The report calls for the legalization of an "independent agent" who represents at least two insurance firms and can service clients by searching the market for the broadest coverage at the best price.

The report also proposes easing restrictions on the fund-raising and management activities of insurance companies.

It suggests that the ban on insurers issuance of commercial paper or borrowings from banks should be scrapped, with certain restrictions on the use and amount of money to be raised.

Life insurance firms should also be allowed to guarantee obligations and to broker private replacement of bonds.

In order to augment the risk mangement system of insurance firms, the report recommends the introduction of a "solvency margin."

Solvency would mean the minimum standard of financial health for an insurance company, where assets exceed liabilities.

It calls on the government to set standards for solvency margins as a new yardstick for monitoring and supervising risk management of insurance firms.

Overtime Hours Decrease Amid Signs of Slowdown

OW2905081092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0800 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 (KYODO)—Working hours of company employees declined in April amid signs of an economic slowdown, the Labor Ministry reported Friday.

The ministry, citing its survey of companies with more than 30 employees, said total working hours during the month decreased 2.0 percent from a year earlier to 172.3 hours.

Of the total, the ministry said regular hours showed a 0.8 percent decline to 159.1 while those for overtime work plunged 15.4 percent to 13.2, the sharpest year-on-year fall since June 1975, when the decrease amounted to 20.9 percent.

It was the 16th straight month that overtime hours dropped from a year earlier, the ministry said.

In the manufacturing sector, overtime fell 22.9 percent, compared with 13.2 percent for the construction industry and 12.0 percent for the wholesale and retail sectors, the ministry said.

The ministry, meanwhile, said monthly wages averaged 295,438 yen, up 1.8 percent over a year earlier in nominal terms but down a net 0.5 percent.

Regular salaries gained 3.6 percent but overtime allowances fell 11.0 percent, the ministry said.

Total work hours for fiscal 1991 stood at 2,008, up from a preliminary figure of 2,006, it said.

Farming Corporate Entities Rules Reconsidered

OW2505012192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0043 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 25 (KYODO)—The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries is considering relaxing regulations on existing farming corporate entities in a move that could pave the way for trading houses and other major companies to invest in such entities, ministry sources said Monday.

The sources told KYODO News Service that the deregulation is intended to make such entities more business-oriented and more attractive to individual farmers in order to modernize the nation's agriculture.

Such farming corporate entities act like companies in agricultural production, being allowed to own and lease farming land and given preferential taxation treatment.

Currently, membership in these entities is limited to farmers and they are forbidden from acting as corporations in distributing farm products other than those produced by themselves.

The ministry sources said changes being considered would allow such entities to handle agricultural products other than those made by themselves and permit them to obtain funds from outsiders.

The ministry first allowed farmers to form such corporate entities in 1962 with the aim of raising efficiency in agriculture. There are some 3,700 corporate agricultural entities nationwide at present.

Nuclear Safety Commission Urges Safer Reactors

OW2805134292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1307 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 28 KYODO—The Nuclear Safety Commission called Thursday for better and safer nuclear reactor containers in order to prevent "severe accidents" like the 1986 Chernobyl reactor meltdown.

The commission proposal, which is to result in changes in the content of safety inspections, was submitted to the power utility firms and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

After considering concrete measures, the ministry is to provide directions to the nuclear power industry.

MITI, which oversees the industry, said Thursday that it would set up a committee of specialists to study the proposal and reconsider its current reactor safety measures.

The proposal makes the assumption that nuclear accidents, such as those at Chernobyl in the former Soviet Union, or at Three Mile Island, Pennsylvania, in 1979, are possible in Japan, and therefore the industry has a duty to construct nuclear reactor safety equipment like steam exhaust equipment.

"Regarding nuclear reactors that have been newly constructed, 'severe accident' countermeasures should be investigated during safety inspections," the commission said in the proposal.

The commission also advised MITI that countermeasures be taken during the operation and construction of nuclear reactors.

"Severe accidents" occur when trouble with or damage to a nuclear reactor, or a mishap in its operation, releases large amounts of radioactive matter into the surrounding environment.

It is estimated that the chance of a nuclear accident is less than one in 100,000 years for each reactor, even when the Chernobyl and Three Mile Island accidents are included.

The commission said that it planned to reduce the odds even more by insisting on stricter safety measures for the reactor containers.

The proposal suggested that installation of equipment to cool the reactor containers or release steam exhaust in the event that pressure or temperature in a reactor container rises to abnormal levels.

It also proposed installation of equipment to burn off hydrogen, which is produced at the time of an accident, so that it cannot reach a high density and lead to an explosion.

The commission noted that nuclear power plants equipped with such equipment are on the increase in the United States, France, Germany, Sweden, and other countries.

Japan, however, has not yet included these countermeasures since officials believed that "severe accidents" would not occur because of rigorous safety measures and safety operations management.

MITI officials said Thursday they expect the proposed committee to review safety manuals from plants overseas and make a report in June.

A final report is expected in about a year and will form the basis for concrete suggestions to the nuclear power industry on the construction of nuclear reactors.

Monju Nuclear Plant Said Not To Be Remodeled

OW2905100792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0934 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 (KYODO)—Science and Technology Agency Chief Kazuo Tanigawa said Friday the government is not planning to remodel Japan's first fast breeder nuclear reactor into a fast reactor that does not produce plutonium.

But Takao Ishiwatari, board director of the Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corp., hinted at the possibility of such a conversion, saying the corporation might try to remodel the Monju reactor in Fukui Prefecture in the future.

Both Tanigawa and Ishiwatari were responding to a YOMIURI SHIMBUN report Wednesday that Japan plans to convert the plant into a fast reactor.

Tanigawa told reporters the agency has no plan to remodel the design of Monju, a plutonium-producing reactor which has been undergoing trial operations since May last year.

He also said his agency will take a flexible stance on utilization of plutonium, based on various opinions.

Ishiwatari said if the Monju reactor became operational smoothly, the government-affiliated corporation might consider converting it.

Plutonium, the key element in nuclear weapons, is overproduced worldwide. Japan's policy to increase plutonium production faces criticism at home and from abroad.

Fast breeder reactors use reprocessed plutonium as fuel, but produce more plutonium than they consume.

Monju has the capacity to generate 280,000 kilowatts of electricity.

1992 'White Paper' on Environment Released

OW2605023692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0138 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Households in Japan are discarding more waste than ever, at a rate of increase that is among the highest in the world, the Environment Agency said in the 1992 white paper on the environment released Tuesday.

The annual report said household waste in Japan remains relatively low by international standards, but warned that space and time may be running out.

"The amount of domestic waste per person in Japan is not inordinately high when considered in terms of international comparison," the report said.

"However, in the five years from 1985 to 1989, the rate of increase in domestic waste per person in Japan was among the highest in the world.

"For a country such as Japan, where the area for waste disposal is scarce, keeping the lid on the increase in domestic waste is becoming a major issue."

The paper said that in 1988, it estimated that there was only about four years worth of space left in the domestic waste disposal sites in Tokyo, Chiba, Kanagawa, and Saitama Prefectures.

The paper said the amount of industrial waste in 1985 was 312.27 million tons, or seven times that in 1985.

It said the situation was "particularly acute" in the metropolitan region where available industrial waste disposal space decreased from 20.17 million cubic meters in 1986 to 7.14 million cubic meters in 1989.

The paper said the situation is now so grave that industrial waste is being shuttled from one prefecture to another in the search for places to dispose of it and illegal dumping is becoming a "serious problem."

Complaints about offensive noises and smells increased throughout Japan in 1990, the report said.

It said that in 1990 the most common complaint registered with public authorities, or 24.6 percent of the total, concerned noise, followed by reports about odors, at 15.4 percent of the total.

It said the major sources of noise are factories and "other sites of commercial or industrial activity," followed by construction and late night business activity.

"The rate of achievement of environmental quality standards regarding automobile traffic noise worsens each year," it said.

The paper said that measurements from 4,585 monitoring points around Japan in 1990 showed no more than 13.3 percent of the locations met environmental noise standards all day long.

The paper said the data show a "steadily worsening trend" at 1,056 points where noise has been measured over the past five years.

The paper also said most Shinkansen bullet trains between Tokyo and Fukuoka meet vibration guidelines, and the Tohoku and Joetsu lines have achieved the guidelines, but said "there are numerous locations" where noise guidelines are not met.

"In accordance with efforts in recent years to accelerate the Shinkansen, it will be necessary to take adequate measures to ensure that noise conditions will not deteriorate," the paper warned.

The paper cited the growth of suburbs as one of the main reasons for the increase in complaints about offensive odors.

"As urban sprawl pushes residential areas further away from the city, residents frequently find themselves living next to factories that had been located in the rural area for a long time," the paper said.

It said 28.2 percent of the complaints about offensive odors concerned factories, 24.2 percent concerned livestock and farming, and 21.9 were related to the service sector.

World Environment Issue Viewed

OW2605023392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0127 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Developed countries need to supply money and technology to help developing nations promote environmental protection, which would aid international efforts to protect the deteriorating environment, an annual government report said Tuesday.

The 1992 white paper on the environment said in the future the earth will be poor and polluted, and may go to ruin if the world continues the current type of economic activities characterized by mass consumption and mass waste disposal.

"Mankind must help each other. All human beings would face danger once the earth was destroyed ... There is only one earth," said the report released by the Environment Agency.

The 690-page annual report, officially called the Annual Report on the State of Public Pollution, was released just before the Earth Summit June 3-14 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The summit will be the largest session of its kind since the United Nations held the habitat conference in Sweden in 1972.

The Earth Summit, officially the U.N. Conference on the Environment and Development, will draw 15,000 to 20,000 people, including at least 102 heads of state or government. At least 160 nations are taking part in the conference.

The report said the Rio session will be another chance to try for the target the habitat meeting failed to reach two decades ago—promoting development while preserving the environment.

The international community can again strive for the target of sharing and enjoying benefits from development, regardless of regions or generations, the report said.

"No failure can be allowed this time," it said.

Japanese should relearn the respect their ancestors had for the environment during the 1600-1868 Edo era, the white paper said.

The report, noting much of the infrastructure for Japan's farms and forests was built in the Edo era, said that during this period, anyone felling a tree in a forest reserve was severely punished.

It also said the population labored together to prevent damage from natural disasters in rural areas.

The paper said although Edo era life was hard and feudal social structure oppressed much of the population, Japanese today still share the same fate as their ancestors since "man must coexist with a finite global environment and work for happiness there."

"The wisdom of the Japanese can never be described as worthless in the contemporary era," the paper said.

The paper, which this year addressed the theme of "sustainability," said the Japanese have learned from their experience with pollution and are now in a position to assist other countries which might be repeating Japan's mistakes.

But it also warned that time is running out for Japan, citing such threats to nature as the diminishing space for disposing of industrial and household waste, the introduction of nonnative species of fish in lakes and rivers, and acid rain.

The paper said household waste in 1989 amounted to 49.97 million tons, or 406.6 kilograms per person, and that household waste was increasing faster in Japan than in most other countries.

It said space for disposing of industrial waste in the Tokyo region decreased from 20.17 million cubic meters in 1986 to 7.14 cubic meters in 1989.

The paper also said land reclamation on the shores of 57 of the nation's lakes since 1945 had caused the loss of approximately 344 square kilometers, or 13 percent, of their combined surface area.

It said more than 50 percent of lakeshores are now artificial and that 30 percent is used for industrial or urban development.

"The introduction of fish that are not native to Japan is also taking place at lakes in every area," the paper said.

"As this is one of the factors affecting changes among fish species, it is important to continue monitoring these trends."

The paper said that although 1988 data showed that 92 percent of Japan's land area was covered with natural or cultivated vegetation, relatively little is preserved in its natural state.

"Virgin vegetation" accounts for only 19.3 percent of the total land area, with almost 60 percent all virgin vegetation in Hokkaido, it said.

The paper said acid rain is not yet a serious problem for Japan but warrants further monitoring.

Panel: Technology 'Can' Keep CO_2 at 1990 Level

OW2405042892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0355 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 24 (KYODO)—Carbon dioxide emissions can be restricted to the 1990 level by the year 2000, an environment agency panel tackling global warming measures said Sunday.

The panel said in a report that it is possible to keep carbon dioxide emissions at the 1990 level by combining existing energy-saving techniques, such as insulation for buildings and generating electricity from waste heat, and other techniques to be developed in the future.

Most countries, including West European countries and Japan, have set a target of holding carbon dioxide emissions at 1990 levels by 2000.

Carbon dioxide, emitted by burning fossil fuels such as oil and coal, is considered one of the main causes of the greenhouse effect which traps heat in the earth's atmosphere and contributes to global warming.

In October 1990, Japan's government action plan for combating global warming set the carbon dioxide emissions target per person for 2000 at the 1990 level.

The environment agency panel listed existing and potential energy-saving techniques in sectors such as public welfare, industry and transportation, and calculated the effect of each technique and added them up, the report said.

For example, if the use of electricity-saving motors increases 50 percent, carbon dioxide emissions be reduced by 19.58 million tons, the report said.

As a result, the total carbon dioxide emissions by the various sectors would amount to 97 to 104 in the year 2000, compared with the base figure of 100 in 1990, the panel said. It concluded that the target set in the action plan could be achieved.

Specifically, in the public welfare sector, demands for energy are increasing, although the use of insulation or efficient lighting in buildings is spreading, and carbon dioxide emissions will increase by 12 to 23 percent, the report said.

But in the industrial field, carbon dioxide emissions can be reduced by 4 to 13 percent with the promotion of energy saving, such as generating electricity from waste heat, and the increase in the number of nuclear power plants, which do not emit carbon dioxides, it said.

In the transportation field, emissions can be restricted to a 3.5 percent increase by improving the consumption rate of fuel or by increasing the number of small cars, the report said.

The environment agency pointed out, however, that spreading countermeasure techniques, such as introducing standards for the emissions, is essential to achieving the goal.

North Korea

Secretary Kim Yong-sun Meets U.S. Delegation

SK2805151692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1506 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 28 (KCNA)—Kim Yong-sun, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Supreme People's Assembly and secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], met and conversed at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today with the delegation of the American Freedom Coalition headed by former U.S. Congressman Richard Ichord, co-chairman of the coalition, that paid a courtesy call on him.

Present on the occasion were Kim Hyong-u, vice-director of a department of the WPK Central Committee, and Yi Song-ho, vice- chairman of the Korean Society for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries.

Hosts Reception

SK2905052892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0441 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 29 (KCNA)—The Foreign Affairs Commission of the Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) of the DPRK hosted a reception on May 28 for the delegation of the American Freedom Coalition (AFC) headed by former Congressman Richard H. Ichord, co-chairman of AFC.

In his speech Kim Yong-sun, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the SPA and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, said that it is the first visit to Korea by a delegation consisting of many figures of the United States and this is an expression of their good intentions to see that the two countries and two peoples of Korea and the USA live on friendly terms.

As Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our people, stated in his answers to the questions raised by a journalist delegation of WASHINGTON TIMES of the United States, it is natural that the matter of improving relations between the DPRK and the USA has been put on the order of the day with the end of the cold war and this accords with the interests and desire of the two peoples as well as the world trend toward detente, reconciliation and peace, he stressed.

It will be right for us politicians to settle the relations between the two countries in keeping with the desire of the people and the requirement of the times, Kim Yong-sun said, and added: Your current visit will make an excellent contribution to the promotion of friendship between the peoples of Korea and the United States, I think.

The countries concerned which are responsible for peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula must do things helpful to the reunification of Korea, he stressed.

Recalling that the great leader President Kim Il-song said in a recent interview with WASHINGTON TIMES, that now that the cold war itself has gone bankrupt, there can be no question of the victory of one side over the other, Richard H. Ichord said in his speech: I agree with that statement completely. I have been involved in enough cold and hot wars to know that conflict only makes victims of us all.

Referring to the Korean war and to the fact that the Korean people, separated in the North and the South, are unable to communicate or to visit, Ichord said: We must renew our efforts toward reconciliation for them.

He further said:

We loudly applaud your country's desire to resolve the nuclear issue. All of us here pledge to do all that is in our power to encourage progress on this very sensitive and very important issue. Let us work together for the cause of peace.

U.S.-ROK Ground, Air Exercises Reported

SK2905054692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0416 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 29 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Navy Command sent FA-18, A-6 and other assault planes from overseas bases to the sky above the area along the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] on May 27 to stage a large-scale joint aerial war exercise simulating a northward invasion in coordination with fighter planes belonging to the U.S. Air Force present in South Korea and the puppet air force, according to military sources.

More than 300 warplanes were mobilized in the exercise.

On the same day, more than 80 fighter planes of different types belonging to the U.S. Air Force in South Korea and the puppet air force were let fly above Taegu and Kunni in a frantic war game against the North.

That day the U.S. imperialists sent a Pacific-based KC-135 tanker plane for an exercise of mid-air refuelling of scores of fighter planes.

In a separate action, the South Korean puppets staged various war exercises threatening the North near the Military Demarcation Line.

On the 27th, tank groups of the puppet army staged a war game aimed at breaking through the MDL and infiltrating into the depths of the North side with the support of fighter planes, and a 105 mm artillery group of the puppet army fired live shells toward the MDL, backed by fighter planes.

On the same day the South Korean puppets staged a naval attack exercise with many combatant ships near the extension of the Demarcation Line on the East and West Sea.

That day, the U.S. imperialists let a U-2 high-altitude strategic reconnaissance plane and army tactical reconnaissance planes of different types fly above the MDL for an espionage on the North side.

The warplanes mobilized in the war exercises against the northern half of Korea in the sky above South Korea on May 27 alone numbered more than 600 and the combatant ships over 100.

Commentary Denounces U.S.-ROK Exercises

SK2405124192 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 23 May 92

[Commentary by station commentator Yun Pyong-son: "Anachronistic Imprudent Act"]

[Text] These days the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are all the more running amok in new war maneuvers against the Northern half of the Republic.

According to reports, from 19-21 May in the sky above Wonju, Tanyang, and Kunwi, the U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppets staged an aerial war exercise to win air supremacy in case of an emergency and a joint aerial strike exercise aimed at a surprise attack on targets in the strategic in-depth area of the Northern half of the Republic.

It was learned that in this provocative war exercise, nuclear-capable fighter-bombers, assault and observation planes from overseas bases, and warplanes of different types belonging to the U.S. Air Force occupying South Korea and puppet air force—more than 680 in all—were mobilized. Along with this, the rascals committed a nighttime aerial operation exercise and missile strike exercise and bombing of targets on the ground. They also committed an emergency take-off and landing exercise on the highways of Kwangju and Ulchin, where bosses of the military establishment, including the chairman of the puppet army's Joint Chiefs of Staff and chief of the General Staff of the Air Force, were gathered.

Around the areas adjacent to the DMZ along the Military Demarcation Line and at sea, the South Korean puppets committed exercises of firing shells, attack operation exercise to break through front line areas, naval attack and landing operation exercises, and antisubmarine operation exercises, thus inspiring an atmosphere of war.

In South Korea for just three days alone from 19-21 May, more than 2,100 planes were running amok for the aerial war exercises and over 350 naval vessels were running hither and thither for the naval war exercises. This plainly shows how much the rascals are working like mad on new war provocation maneuvers. This is an unforgivable criminal act completely running counter to our nation's intention to achieve peace and reunification.

As everyone knows, the North-South agreement, which was adopted and effectuated between the North and South, contains a paragraph clearly stating that one side should not use force against the other side and that one side should not invade the other side with force.

Because the North and South promised to each other to carry out nonaggression and if the South side truly intends to fulfill the matters agreed upon, it must achieve arms reduction and stop war exercises opposing the other side. Also, the United States must withdraw its forces and war equipment from South Korea. Doing this coincides with the spirit of the North-South agreement and will positively influence improvement in North-South relations and improvement in DPRK-U.S. relations.

Nevertheless, while saying that they welcome the North-South agreement, rather than suspending war exercises, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are all the more increasing and strengthening their war exercises, thus leading the situation into a dangerous one.

The peculiar military movements by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities show that on the surface they are calling for so-called peace and reunification on the Korean peninsula, but in reality they do not want this but are only pursuing war provocations to invade the North.

This is clearly proven in the fact that the U.S. imperialists are withholding their plan to withdraw their occupation forces from South Korea and are increasing their forces, saying that this is some kind of war deterrence. Another fact that clearly proves this is that the puppets are dragging into South Korea many new murderous weapons and military equipment, including missiles from Western European countries, and most of all from the fact that the puppets increased their defense budget for next year by 17 percent compared with this year, to prepare for war.

Because of the reckless new war maneuvers by the U.S. imperialists and their cat's paw, the situation is as tense as ever, even after the effectuation of the North-South agreement, and the work to achieve peace and reunification on the Korean peninsula is encountering a grave challenge.

All the countrymen of the North, South, and overseas are currently earnestly hoping that peace can come to the Korean peninsula and that peaceful reunification can be achieved as soon as possible. With the goal of achieving peace in the 1990's, they are moving forward vigorously.

Trying to prevent this strong trend, which is like a large river, for the nation's reunification through war maneuvers and trying to realize the ambition to invade the North are anachronistic fantasies.

The maneuvers by the U.S. imperialists and the puppets who have not freed themselves from the same old viewpoint of confrontation and are running amok in war commotions, will be denounced even more by the people at home and abroad.

The rascals can obtain nothing from the new war provocation maneuvers. The U.S. imperialists and the South

Korean authorities must look straight at the overall situation and immediately stop the reckless new war provocation maneuvers.

South's Attitude at Nuclear Talks Condemned

SK2905031992 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0035 GMT 29 May 92

[NODONG SINMUN 29 May commentary: "They Must Discard the Attitude of Relying on Outside Forces and Betraying Their Fellow Countrymen"]

[Text] The South Korean authorities have been creating artificial obstacles and difficulties in the process of implementing the North-South joint denuclearization declaration. They clearly demonstrated their deeds during the fifth North-South Joint Nuclear Control Commission held on 27 May. As is well known, since the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Commission was formed, our side has made every sincere effort to immediately adopt documents necessary for verifying the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

At that meeting, our side cordially proposed to the South side that to sincerely and actually implement the joint denuclearization declaration, both sides should conclude discussions on agreements and rules for inspection at an early date. However, as soon as they sat face to face with us, the South side seriously debated our views, repeated far-fetched proposals that are not contained in any of the agreements, and, thus turned the meeting place into a ground of confrontation and argument.

What we must take issue with concerning the South side's stance in the talks is, first of all, the fact that it did not bring a draft agreement on implementing the joint denuclearization declaration and that it groundlessly picked a fight with us by raising the so-called DMZ firing incident along the Military Demarcation Line— an act that lacks basic trust toward the dialogue partner. This shows that the South side came to the talks' site with an intention to make the talks fruitless again through verbal fights.

We have nothing to do with the firing incident that took place inside the DMZ. We have already clarified that this incident is a fabrication by the South Korean rulers designed to pour cold water over the atmosphere of reconciliation and reunification which has been developing well between the North and South, to stifle the spirit of the South Korean people's antigovernment struggle, and to resolve a serious crisis facing the South Korean authorities' rule. Nevertheless, the South side, stubbornly linking the incident to us, provoked its dialogue partner. This can only be interpreted as a deliberate obstructive maneuver and a delay tactic to prevent the meeting from adopting any document and to provide obstacles to the implementation of the agreements and joint denuclearization declaration.

Moreover, it is also serious that the South side stubbornly opposed full-scale inspection, while advancing various unreasonable proposals such as the principle of reciprocity and the so-called spot inspection or inspection of military bases which are not mentioned in the North-South agreements. In a word, only when we accept the inspection of ordinary military bases, can they allow the inspection of U.S. nuclear bases and nuclear weapons in South Korea. Ordinary military bases are not nuclear bases, and the inspection of ordinary military bases is not mentioned in the North-South agreements.

The South side babbled about spot inspection, which is not mentioned in the joint declaration, and unreasonably insisted that ordinary military bases be included in inspection sites. This is a cunning attempt to avoid the inspection of U.S. nuclear bases and nuclear weapons in South Korea at all costs by equating ordinary military bases with nuclear bases.

This is not only a breach of faith which reverses the articles of the joint denuclearization declaration, which it solemnly promised before the entire nation, but is also a flunkeyist and treacherous act which follows the U.S. directive that the nuclear bases and weapons deployed in South Korea must not be revealed by unconditionally refusing a full-scale inspection. Thus, the South Korean authorities have vividly revealed to the world that they have no will to solve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula at all.

What we cannot overlook is that the South side is trying to drive a wedge between us and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] by talking about nuclear reprocessing facilities, secret introduction of nuclear weapons, and the like and that they made the preposterous remarks that without solving the nuclear issue there will be no improvement in Korean-U.S. relations and Korean-Japanese relations.

We will do what we say we will and, likewise, we will not do anything when we say we will not. We never engage in empty talk. We have neither the will nor the capability to develop nuclear weapons, and we possess no nuclear weapons. Therefore, we have decided to squarely accept nuclear inspection by the IAEA. We are realistically submitting ourselves to nuclear inspection. We are performing our responsibility and role in implementing the North- South agreement and the joint denuclearization declaration, as well.

The peace-loving people of the world welcome the fact that we have presented an agreement draft for the implementation of the joint denuclearization declaration and a draft of inspection rules and are sincerely making all possible efforts for their adoption and effectuation.

It is shameful that those who have not only refused to present a draft agreement for the implementation of the joint denuclearization declaration but have also stubbornly persisted in not accepting the inspection of U.S. nuclear bases and nuclear weapons—which are a stumbling block in solving the nuclear issue—make these remarks, thus provoking us.

The South side has done nothing that it should do and has opposed everything good for the nation while preposterously defaming and slinging mud at the other dialogue party. Moreover, it is trying to link the nuclear inspection issue with the issues of Korean-U.S. relations and Korean-Japanese relations. This reveals its criminal attempt to block a fair settlement of the Korean question in collusion with foreign forces and to create a new obstacle to implementing the North-South agreement and the joint declaration on denuclearization.

Through the course of the fifth round of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Commission the people of the world have come to clearly distinguish who is sincerely faithful to the implementation of the joint denuclearization declaration and who is not faithful to it and who keeps promises vowed before the nation and who does not.

Denuclearization is not an optional process, but a vital work closely related to the destiny of the nation. Therefore, no one can avoid it. The South Korean authorities should renounce their criminal intention of not accepting the inspection of U.S. nuclear bases and nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea and of not implementing the denuclearization declaration just to maintain their power by relying on foreign forces and betraying fellow countrymen. Instead, they should sincerely meet with us for a solution to the nuclear issue.

We will continue to watch the South side's attitude.

South Said Prolonging 'Fascist Dictatorship'

SK2405094892 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0849 GMT 24 May 92

["Desperate Wriggle of Dictator"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 24 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today in a commentary denounces the South Korean authorities for brutally suppressing the people who have risen up in an anti-fascist struggle for democracy.

Noting that the struggle of students, democratic figures and patriotic people against the "Democratic Liberal Party" (DLP) has erupted with violent force, the news analyst says:

It is the "DLP regime" which made the South Korean people rise up in the struggle against the "DLP" and dictatorship in defiance of suppression by the bayonet. Nevertheless, the South Korean rulers, far from lending an ear to the demand of the people, criminalize their just struggle and resort to bloody repression.

What is it, if not a challenge to democracy and people's rights and an insult to patriotism and justice?

The South Korean rulers are seeking to realise the prolongation of the military fascist dictatorship without difficulty through the reassumption of power by the "DLP" after stifling the anti-"DLP" and anti-dictatorship struggle of the people and creating an atmosphere of terror in society.

This, however, is nothing but the death-bed frenzy of those who have been driven into a bottomless pit, forsaken by the people.

'Sword-Brandishing' by South Authorities Condemned

SK2705053792 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0429 GMT 27 May 92

["Sword-Brandishing Spoiling Atmosphere of Reconciliation"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 27 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities who had been searching for the students who had exchanged letters with students of the North some time ago arrested on May 25 Choe U-kap, chairman of the General Student Council of Pusan University of Foreign Studies and others and ordered the arrest of Song Kyu-sok, chairman of the General Student Council of Ulsan University, and Yi Chol-yong, chairman of the Promotion Committee of Students for Peace and Independent Reunification of the Fatherland of the university. This is an anti-national and anti-reunification fascist outrage against national reconciliation, unity and reunification and sword-brandishing which spoils the atmosphere of reconciliation, says NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today.

The analyst notes:

It is quite natural that the South Korean students who are suffering from national division exchanged letters with fellow students in the North of the same blood either from the point of view of democracy or humanitarianism.

It conforms entirely to the North-South agreement and the joint declaration that the South Korean students who are ardent in patriotism and devoted to reunification conveyed to the fellow students in the North their intention on denuclearization and disarmament and the reunification of the country through confederacy. This is a good thing for promoting national reconciliation and unity and creating an atmosphere for the implementation of the agreement.

But, the South Korean authorities are suppressing the patriotic deeds of students on the charge of "correspondence and meeting" under the "National Security Law". This shows that they have no intention to reconcile themselves and unite with us and their talk about the "era of reconciliation" is no more than falsity to mislead public opinion. The South Korean rulers block and suppress even the exchange of letters with Northern students. This is an extension of their criminal acts of seeking only confrontation and division, refusing reconciliation, cooperation and reunification even after the effectuation of the agreement. The South Korean authorities must stop at once the suppression of the students who desire reunification and refrain from the treacherous acts of casting a shadow on the road of the implementation of the agreement.

Pyongyang Hosts Iranian Friendship Week

SK2805052592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0500 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 28 (KCNA)—A Korea-Iran friendship week opened on the occasion of the third anniversary of the Korea visit of 'Ali Khamene'i, Islamic leader of Iran.

On the occasion of the friendship week, Iranian photo and book exhibition and film show were held at the Kaesong Municipal House of Culture on May 27.

Invited there were the Esfahan provincial delegation of Iran led by Deputy Governor Jabad Sharbah Chijadeh [as received] and Hasan Taherian, Iranian ambassador to Korea, and his embassy officials.

Present there were Chon Yon-ok, vice-chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and vice-chairman of the Korea-Iran Friendship Association, officials concerned and working people in the city.

Speeches were made at the exhibition.

The participants saw pictures showing the achievements made by the Iranian people in politics, economy, culture and other fields since the victorious Islamic revolution and the friendly and cooperative relations between the Korean and Iranian peoples, and Iranian books.

Then, at the film show, the participants saw a documentary film on the Korea visit of 'Ali Khamene'i.

Kim Il-song Replies to Foreign Leaders' Messages

SK2705113592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1011 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 27 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of korea, sent messages to His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of State of Cambodia and president of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia; Sam Nujoma, president of the Republic of Namibia and supreme commander of the Defence Army of Namibia; Joaquim Alberto Chissano, president of the Mozambique Liberation Front Party (Frelimo Party), president of the Republic of Mozambique and commander-in- chief of the Armed Forces of Mozambique; Man Mohan Adhikari, chairman of the C.C., the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxism-Leninism); Rashed Khan Menon, general secretary of the C.C., the Workers' Party of Bangladesh; Eduardo Machado, chairman of the "New Alternative" of Venezuela; and Ilie Verdet, president of the Direction of the Socialist Workers' Party of Romania, in reply to their messages of greetings on the occasion of the 60th founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army.

President Kim Il-song in the reply messages expressed thanks for the warm congratulations on the 60th founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army.

He expressed the belief that the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation between the Workers' Party, people and the People's Army of Korea and the parties, the peoples and the armies of the afore-said countries would further strengthen and develop in the future.

Daily Lauds People's Trust in Party, Leader

SK2905111192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1000 GMT 29 May 92

["Noble Ideological and Spiritual World of Our People Who Are Following the Great Leader"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 29 (KCNA)—It is the ideological and spiritual traits of our people to uphold always with sincerity the party and the leader, firmly believing them as the defender of their destiny and pillar of their hearts and share the same destiny with the party at a good time or hard time, says NODONG SINMUN in a signed article today.

Today our people, it notes, are overflowing with the great pride and honour of living a most worthwhile life and making revolution under the guidance of the great party and leader.

The article quotes the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying:

"Our people is the best people in the world. As long as we are supported by them, we are not afraid of any formidable enemy."

The article further says:

Today our people are confidently building socialism with most noble ideological and spiritual traits under the guidance of the party and the leader. The ideological and spiritual world of our people is characterised by the full display of the spirit of revolution and devoted service, unity and organisation, revolutionary sense of obligation and comradeship with loyalty to the party and the leader as the hardcore.

Our people is the good people aflame with firm determination and ideological consciousness to make revolution to the end upholding the great party and leader.

Our people are now living and struggling with their firm faith and will to bring the revolutionary cause of chuche to completion, remaining faithful to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and dear Comrade Kim Chong-il. With dear Comrade Kim Chong-il in high esteem as the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army the noble ideological feelings to remain loyal to their leader is growing more intense amongst our party members and other working people.

The unshakable faith and will of our people to believe and follow the party and the leader is the noble ideological feelings which have relayed the burning loyal heart of the anti-Japanese martyrs who had raised cheers, from the bottom of their hearts, over the birth of the "bright star of Mt. Paektu" in the thick of Mt. Paektu and fought entrusting the future of Korea to him. It is the absolute belief in the greatness of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il and his wise guidance, the firm conviction of victory and the death-defying readiness and will to devote their all to the struggle for accomplishing the cause of the party.

Our people is a good people who are devoting all their wisdom and energy to the accomplishment of the party's cause and staunchly fighting, helping and leading each other, singleheartedly united behind the party and the leader.

The ideological spirit of people to entrust all their destiny to the great leader is boundlessly noble and its might is, indeed, powerful.

Our people who have made revolution, holding in high esteem respected Comrade Kim Il-song as the leader are the revolutionary people strong in unity by nature. Such traditional spirit of our people's unity is displayed more highly in holding dear Comrade Kim Chong-il as the centre of unity. It is the revolutionary traits of our people to know no one but their leader and unite and unite with him as the centre.

Our society which holds the leader in esteem as the father is the most harmonious and united grand revolutionary family which shares the destiny with him in ideological and intentional, moral and dutiful unity with him.

Our people have become the great and glorious people with the noblest ideological and spiritual features for holding in high esteem the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and dear Comrade Kim Chong-il.

It is entirely because of the wise guidance of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il that today our people have become the most revolutionary people who defend the banner of socialism to the end, resolutely smashing the vicious challenge and obstructive moves of the imperialists and reactionaries, a really good people who can never be seen in anywhere.

South Korea

North Fails To Attend Meeting on DMZ Clash

SK2905054392 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0400 GMT 29 May 92

[By reporter No Ki-hwan from Panmunjom]

[Text] The 460th Military Armistice Committee [MAC] meeting scheduled for this morning in Panmunjom was not held because the North side's delegation did not show up.

The United Nations Command [UNC] requested that the North side attend today's MAC meeting to discuss the 22 May North Korean armed infiltration of the DMZ.

The North Korean side did not propose a counterproposal to the UNC's request. MAC meetings have always taken place except for occasions when neither side has made a counterproposal for setting another date. However, since an ROK general was appointed as senior delegate of the UNC, MAC meetings have not taken place since the 459th MAC meeting on 13 February of last year as the North side has refused to attend.

Absence Called 'Grave Violation'

SK2905084492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0816 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Panmunjom, May 29 (YONHAP)—The United Nations Command [UNC] accused North Korea of a "grave violation" of the Armistice Agreement Friday for its refusal to attend a meeting of the Military Armistice Commission [MAC] to discuss the armed infiltration of North Korean solders into the Demilitarized Zone.

"The failure of the North Korean side of the MAC to meet here is another grave violation of the Armistice Agreement," Maj. Gen. Hwang Won-tak, senior member of the UNC side, said.

"They have again disappointed not only the UNC side of the MAC, but the entire Korean people and international community yearning for the peaceful reunification of our country," he said.

UNC called the 460th MAC meeting to protest the infiltration of the DMZ by armed North Korean soldiers disguised as South Korean soldiers on May 22 and to seek to prevent such incidents in the future.

If one side calls a MAC meeting, the other side can't reject or boycott it, though an alternate date can be counter-proposed, under the Armistice Agreement.

North Korea has refused to convene a MAC meeting since Hwang, a South Korean general, was appointed the head delegate of the UNC side on March 25, saying he was unqualified for the post.

The UNC side said that it was ready to turn over the bodies of the three North Korean soldiers killed during Friday's [22 May] exchange of fire so that their families could bury them.

No Praises Army for Stopping North's Infiltration

SK2905023592 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 29 May 92 p 2

[Text] President No Tae-u yesterday called on Armed Forces to get fully prepared to deter any military provocation by North Korea whenever it may occur.

No made the call during a visit to an Army unit in the central frontline, praising last week's successful military operation that stopped an infiltration by three armed North Korean guerrillas.

The President stressed, "Our Armed Forces should also be taking full preparatory measures for any contingency."

"The stop of the armed North Korean army intruders at a stroke on May 22 clearly showed how perfect our Armed Forces preparedness is," he said.

During his visit to the Army unit, No took lunch with exemplary soldiers there. The President also inspected an Air Force unit in the afternoon.

Upon arrival at the military units, No was greeted by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Kim Chin-yong, Gen. Ku Chang-hoe, commander of the Third Army, and Air Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Han Chu-sok.

Stalled Talks Not To Hinder Other Exchanges

SK2905031492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0255 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 29 (YONHAP)—The government will continue to promote humanitarian exchange with North Korea even though the inter-Korean nuclear negotiations for mutual inspection have stalled, government officials said Friday.

The officials said there was no change in the government position that mutual inspection was necessary to resolve the nuclear issue and that the government would go on talking with North Korea after the conclusion of the on-going inspection of the North's nuclear capability by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

"It is true that the talks over mutual inspection are not progressing well as expected, but this does not call for a review of over-all inter-Korean relations," one official said.

"The government will continue nuclear talks with North Korea as soon as the IAEA inspection is completed and will actively promote hometown visits by separated family members and other humanitarian exchanges," he said.

At the fourth meeting of the inter-Korean Subcommittee on Exchange and Cooperation at the truce village of Panmunjom on Saturday, South Korea will try to discuss with North Korea the detailed procedures and methods of the exchange of separated family members around Aug. 15, the officials said.

South Korea will also suggest ways of helping North Korea in its fight against rice pests at the meeting.

The government will seek to arrange family reunions not only for the 100 people to be selected from among separated family members but also for artists, journalists and support personnel who are found to have relatives in the other side, they said. The 100 will be accompanied by 140 performing artists, journalists and support personnel.

"The more complicated inter-Korean relations grow, the more talks should be made with North Korea. The government does not consider postponing the high-level talks," the official said.

Nuclear Talks Deadlock Creates 'Dilemma'

SK2905062392 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 29 May 92 pp 1, 4

[By staff reporter Kim Hye-won]

[Text] A deadlock in inter-Korean talks on nuclear verification is apparently placing the government of President No Tae-u in a new dilemma—whether to continue to pursue inter-Korean reconciliation or to stop all the planned programs of exchange.

Considering what has surfaced so far, however, Seoul is not likely to choose the latter option.

North Korea was quick to test South Korea.

Yi Song-ho, head of the North Korean Red Cross Society, yesterday cabled a message to his southern counterpart Kang Yong-hun and proposed working-level talks on the family reunion program at the truce village June 6.

Seoul officials have not reacted to the proposal.

The family exchange program and other issues will be discussed at high-level interministerial consultations planned for early next week, said an official.

The government is expected to formulate its general strategy to cope with the new situation caused by the deadlock in nuclear talks.

In-depth discussions are also expected between Seoul and Washington officials this and next week. Chuck Kartman, chief of the Korea desk at the U.S. State Department, is now in Seoul. Ronald Lehman, director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, is due here Sunday.

South Korea repeatedly warned that a delay in solving nuclear issues would lead to an impasse in inter-Korean exchanges in other fields. The United States has also said there would be no improvement in relations between Washington and Pyongyang without settlement of the nuclear issue.

Despite tough warnings by Seoul, North Korea Wednesday delayed the talks on inspection rules and therefore, made actual inspections impossible before July. The two Koreas were to have laid the rules this week for actual inspections in mid-June.

But the Seoul government, at least at the moment, is not likely to drastically change its policy toward Pyongyang.

Some government officials, especially those in the presidential office of Chongwadae, still seemed optimistic.

"We don't agree with the view that the talks have broken down. What is happening now is a temporary suspension. We believe North Korea cannot but accept our demand for mutual nuclear inspections for its own purposes," a presidential official said yesterday.

The officials believe the North is now delaying the mutual nuclear inspections to first see the international response to the results of the ongoing inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of North Korean nuclear facilities.

They think North Koreans will return to the consultation table again for their own need for economic help from the Western world including South Korea.

The officials also believe many contentious issues like the opening of military installations for verification can be settled through compromises in the future.

They say North Korea opposes spot inspections on military installations out of fear that its military capability may be exposed to outsiders.

The officials say that the South may present a compromise proposal to accommodate the North Korean position in the future. "We can, for example, use other words in the agreement instead of military installations. We can also propose 48-hours prior notice for the challenge inspections instead of the suggested 24-hour notice," one official says.

The officials also rule out the possibility that the current impasse in nuclear talks will affect the schedule for the proposed exchange visits of dispersed family members around Aug. 15 or the next inter-Korean prime ministers' talks in Pyongyang in September.

"I don't believe we have to stop such humanitarian programs because of the nuclear issue," said a South Korean member of the inter-Korean Joint Nuclear Control Commission.

Another official admitted that there is little that the South Korean government can do now other than wait and see the results of the ongoing IAEA inspections of North Korean nuclear facilities.

Seoul has already suspended trade and other economic exchanges with Pyongyang because of the nuclear impasse.

Foreign Ministry officials say they have instructed all South Korean overseas diplomatic missions to emphasize to their host countries the importance of inter-Korean mutual nuclear inspection.

They have asked for cooperation with the United States and Japan, and also with China and Russia.

One official says the ministry is requesting other countries, through its overseas missions, to be prudent.

Conference To Seek Creation of DMZ Peace Park

SK2705043692 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 27 May 92 p 2

[Text] A relevant government official on 26 May said that, with government delegates of the North and South participating, an international conference will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam, in August under the auspices of the UN Environment Program [UNEP]. The conference will discuss the creation of a peace park in the DMZ on the Korean peninsula.

The official said: The UNEP has recently disclosed its intention to officially invite the delegations of the North and South Korean governments to discuss the creation of a peace park in the DMZ on the Korean peninsula at the conference on creating the Indo-China International Natural Environment Park, which will be held on 25 August in Hanoi. The government has decided to dispatch a delegation composed of relevant officials, including those from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to this conference. However, it has not been confirmed yet whether North Korea will dispatch a delegation.

Trade Minister Assesses U.S. Visit

SK2905063392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0536 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 29 (YONHAP)—Trade and Industry Minister Han Pong-su, winding up a visit to Washington, said Friday that South Korea-U.S. relations have passed the stage of constant trade frictions and entered an era of industrial and technological cooperation.

As one of the accomplishments of his visit, Han cited an agreement to strengthen contacts on the ministerial level in order to minimize trade frictions.

While in Washington, Han held talks with his U.S. counterpart, Barbara Franklin; U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills; Roger Porter, economic adviser to the President; and congressional leaders including Speaker of the House of Representatives Thomas Foley.

Han is to return home on Sunday.

In an interview with Korean correspondents traveling with him that was sent to the ministry's press corps for pool report, Han gave following assessments of his visit:

—"I have urged the American leaders to understand the economic situation South Korea currently faces and asked for U.S. cooperation in industrial and technological fields.

—"I have received an impression that, unlike in the past, U.S. officials now understand Korea is doing its utmost to improve trade ties with the United States.

—"As for industrial cooperation, the U.S. side had no objection. In fact, there had been a series of agreements on follow-up agenda to be discussed at working level contacts."

As for intellectual property protection, which the United States is pressing hard in exchange for technological cooperation, the minister said the two sides will try to resolve a few remaining issues at working-level conferences at an early date.

He said technological cooperation was something that should be carried by the private sector, between companies. The two governments could only encourage and provide an environment conducive for transfers of technology, the minister said.

Private economic organizations of the two countries played an important role in removing trade frictions in the past, he said, but now they can facilitate industrial cooperation in a similar manner.

Asked if he had discussed with U.S. officials dumping charges brought against Korean semiconductors and steel products by U.S. industries, Han said Korean exporters had no alternative but to submit to American laws and the American system.

But Han said he made it clear to American officials that it wasn't desirable to employ such a method to check imports of cheaper products.

CIS General Arrives in Seoul for Consultations

SK2905084692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0822 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 29 (YONHAP)—Gen. Bronislav Omelichev, first deputy director of the General Staff Department of the Commonwealth of Independent States, arrived Friday for a six-day visit aimed at enhancing military cooperation with South Korea.

"I hope human and materials exchange will take place between the CIS and Korean armed forces. The two countries may exchange military officers and arms and may also have their warships visit each other," Omelichev told reporters on arrival at Seoul's Kimpo International Airport.

He said CIS-South Korea military exchanges would not be affected by North Korea.

"I will meet the defense minister and high-ranking military officers to discuss ways of expediting military exchanges," the general said.

While here, he will attend a seminar on arms control in the Korean peninsula at a Seoul hotel June 1-2 co-sponsored by the North Korean Studies Institute and the Institute of Social Science at Yonsei University.

Russia Opposes Special Zones for Ethnic Koreans

SK2905061792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0224 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Moscow, May 29 (YONHAP)—The Russian Government officially opposes the creation of a special economic zone for Koreans in far eastern Russia on the grounds that such an area might kindle socio-political tension, it was learned Friday.

The government would allow people of Korean descent to migrate to Primorskmorye in the Siberian Maritime Province from other parts of the former Soviet Union, however, under a law restoring the rights of oppressed people that was recently adopted by the Supreme Council.

In answer to a petition by Evgeniy Kim for an autonomous district or an economic zone for ethnic Koreans, the State Committee for Inter-National Affairs and State Organizations said that it was inappropriate to create an autonomous district or an economic zone.

The committee said that the administrative authorities might designate some areas for Korean-Russians who wanted to move into Primorskmorye from other parts.

The Korean-Russians could organize an independent economic organization and engage in foreign economic relations, it said.

A similar answer was given by the mayor of Nakhodka, who said some 500 hectares of land would be offered to people of Korean ancestry and to Korean investors.

The mayor said a Korean autonomous zone, for which no infrastructure existed, might cause political tension with other peoples.

Seoul May Share in Moscow Tech Transfer Center

SK2905060292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0236 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Moscow, May 28 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea may participate in establishing the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC) in Moscow as an effort to diversify away from West-reliant technology transfer, Korean officials said Thursday.

Science and Technology Minister Kim Chin-hyon is scheduled to visit Moscow in mid-June to discuss the possibility with Russian officials, they said.

Depending on how much it can contribute to the center, Korea may seek a seat on the executive board or become a full member of the center, according to the officials.

The ISTC is co-founded by the United States, Japan, the European Community and Russia to prevent an outflow of Soviet scientists and scholars to other countries. The center is scheduled to open in June.

Korea's participation in the center's establishment may help to diversify the source of technology transfers, which are mostly from Western nations, the officials said.

The Russian Government welcomes Korea's contribution, and a final decision is due after Kim's visit here, they said.

The Korea-Russia Science and Technology Cooperation Center also opens in Moscow next month to serve as the official channel for technology transfer.

Korea's main interests are in nuclear fusion, breeder reactors, computer-aided aviation design systems, lasers and coating skills, according to the officials.

The center will plan cooperation projects, collect and analyze information, and find possible transfers of military technology that are being switched to the civilian sector by the Russian Government.

Memorandum of Understanding Signed With Japan

SK2905064592 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 29 May 92 p 3

[Text] Scientific and technological exchanges between Korea and Japan are likely to go into high gear in the wake of concrete steps taken by both sides yesterday.

Wrapping up the second session of the Korea-Japan Joint Committee for Basic Scientific Research, representatives of both nations signed a memorandum of understanding to increase the exchanges of researchers and basic scientific know-how.

The action is widely viewed to increase personal and technological exchanges between the two countries, which have rarely taken place so far.

"The two nations have had little contact regarding the exchange of basic science and technology. Based on the memorandum, there will be more active cooperative activities in the fields of basic science," says Kwon Won-ki, chief Korean delegate and president of the Korea Science and Engineering Foundation (KOSEF).

Korea's basic position is that Korean scientists should first have frequent contacts with Japanese researchers and exchange views and study results before trying to catch up with Japan's advanced science and technology.

"Through exchanges of scientific information and opinions, they will have opportunities to come into contact with Japan's sophisticated technologies, leading to improvement in Korean science and technology. That is what the joint committee is all about," Kwon says.

Japan has shown no positive attitude toward cooperative activities in scientific and technological areas, but its change of position was felt during the annual meeting analysts say.

Hotoshi Osaki, head of the Japanese mission, however, takes a different view on the allegation.

"The Japanese government has been very cooperative in bilateral scientific research projects. I think the performance of the joint committee has been very successful and the prospect is very promising," he says.

Touching on the widespread feeling among Koreans that Japan is reluctant to cooperate with Korea in scientific and technological fields, Osaki says, "That is not correct. We have been supportive of bilateral cooperation and are making efforts to be of help to Korea."

Both Kwon and Osaki, president of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, are optimistic that scientific and technological exchanges between both countries will begin in the future, given the result of the second meeting of the joint committee.

Some experts, however, take a dim view of the prospect for the joint committee, citing differences of both sides.

They argue that Japan is basically in the position of "the giver" who possesses far more advanced technologies, while Korea is only "the receiver."

In that context, it is almost impossible for the giver to be willing to transfer their advanced scientific know-how to the receiver, they maintain.

Meanwhile, the matter of a budget is a stumbling block in the workings of the joint committee, Kwon says.

"The KOSEF has so lean a budget earmarked for joint research projects that it is doubtful that it will be able to manage and conduct research projects as planned."

To improve Korea's technologies and cope with an international trend toward "technological protectionism," the financial assistance of the government is in dire need, he stressed.

As a first step to promote scientific exchanges, both delegations have agreed to set up seven subcommittees to perform studies of the basic scientific sectors.

The subcommittees will be comprised of five experts each from seven basic areas and engage in 14 research projects, covering mathematics and physics, chemistry and biology, mechanics and material engineering, geo-science and space science, and humanities and social science.

The bilateral joint committee was formed in May last year as a follow-up to the joint communique adopted by Korea and Japan when President No Tae-u paid a state visit to Tokyo in 1990.

Poll Examines Voters' Presidential Preferences

SK2905113192 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 28 May 92 p 1

[Text] It was learned that eligible voters regard economic management ability as the most important criterion in electing a candidate in the upcoming 14th presidential elections.

It was also disclosed that eligible voters consider the building of a foundation for an economic upturn as the most significant issue of the 14th presidential elections.

Such facts were revealed when HANGUK ILBO asked Media Research, a public opinion poll survey agency, to conduct a public opinion poll over the telephone on 26 May of 700 males and females above the age of 20 throughout the county.

Of the criteria in electing a candidate in the presidential election, 32.4 percent of the total respondents consider economic management ability as the most important; 25.9 percent of the respondents consider state management ability as the most important; 11.9 percent of the respondents consider contribution to democratization as the most important; and 11.3 percent consider morality as the most important.

The following is a breakdown of allegiance to each presidential candidate: Kim Yong-sam of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], 30.7 percent; Kim Tae-chung of the Democratic Party [DP], 21.6 percent; Yi Chong-chan of the DLP, 15.4 percent; Chong Chu-yong of the Unification National Party [UNP], 9.4 percent; and Pak Chan-chong of the New Political Reform Party, 7.7 percent.

According to age bracket, Kim Yong-sam received the most allegiance from eligible voters over the age of 30, while Kim Tae- chung was the most favored by eligible voters in their 20's.

By region, Kim Yong-sam received the most support from Seoul, Kyonggi Province, Kangwon Province, and South and North Kyongsang Provinces; Kim Tae-chung received the most support from North and South Cholla Provinces; and Yi Chong-chan received the most support from North and South Chungchong Provinces.

When asked which political party held the best and fairest national convention, 29.9 percent said that it was the DP; 23.3 percent said that it was the DLP; and 8.9 percent said that it was the UNP.

In terms of political party preference, 27.0 percent of the respondents preferred the DLP; 25.1 percent the DP; 15.3 percent the UNP; 4 percent the New Political Reform Party; and 22.1 percent said that they supported none of the parties.

When asked about the significance of the upcoming presidential election, 28.6 percent of the respondents said that the most significant issue is the building of a foundation for an economic upturn; 23.3 percent of the respondents regarded the consummation of democratization as the most significant; and 12.4 percent of the respondents regarded the creation of strong leadership as the most significant.

No Tae-u Urges Officials To Increase Discipline

SK2905055192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0243 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 29 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u told Prime Minister Chong Won-sik Friday to see to it that public officials executed their duties firmly without being swayed by political developments.

No, receiving a weekly briefing from Chong at Chongwadae, said he had received reports indicating that some government policy programs were behind schedule and discipline among public officials was slack.

"In officialdom, discipline should be kept firm under the responsibility of respective office heads," he told the prime minister.

No suggested the administration work out ways to use idle women effectively as industry was suffering an acute manpower shortage.

Chong said a cemetery policy council comprising leading social figures would be formed to work on tomb substitutes to cope with the growing shortage of burial space.

He said the government would tighten sanctions against the owners of luxury graves.

Expressing fear that the stock market may fall further, Chong said he would free some large funds, such as the national sports promotion fund and pension funds, from the restraints of the fund management law so that they had a freer hand in stock investment.

*Influence of Military Society Members Examined

922C0128A Seoul WOLGAN CHOSON in Korean No 4, Apr 92 pp 190-203

[Article by reporter Cho Song-kwan: "Line of Personal Connection Still Alive; First Full Testimony by Hanahoe Members and Disclosure of List of 88 Members"]

[Text]**Disband Private Organizations!**

In the middle of last February Army Chief of Staff Gen Kim Chin-yong issued "Directive Message No 1" to the effect that "all lateral private organizations consisting of different ranks within the Army be disbanded in a short period of time." This directive evoked immense repercussions, with the press expressing the hope that the disbanding of private organizations would give momentum to the democratization and neutralization of the military.

But unlike the press, not all of former military figures who do not belong to Hanahoe [fraternal society for Korean Military Academy alumni] unanimously hailed this directive of Army Chief of Staff Gen Kim Chinyong, who was a Hanahoe member. To begin with, their interpretation of the call for "disbanding of private organizations" is different—it is in exact opposition to what the press makes of the directive. In their opinion, the Army chief of staff did not have Hanahoe in mind when he issued the directive.

In the past, when former Defense Minister Yi Sang-hun (11th Military Academy graduating class, not a Hanahoe member) referred to private organizations during his tenure as defense minister, he had Hanahoe in mind. But this time, it was not so. Military Academy graduates who do not belong to Hanahoe interpret the order to disband private organizations as being directed at the organization of ROTC graduates which has begun to rise to the surface.

The prevailing view among former military figures is that in the past the military was led by Military Academy graduates, but recently, ROTC graduates have sharply grown in number and stature, raising the possibility that it will become a counterweight against Military Academy graduates. According to them, a strong point of ROTC graduates is that they have a strong cohesive power and society has a favorable impression of them.

What is more, contrary to the common view that it is difficult for non-Military Academy graduates to get promoted to the rank of lieutenant general, Pak Se-hwan of the first ROTC graduating class became the first to be promoted to commanding general of the 8th Corps (three-star general). This is a precedent which gives much encouragement to ROTC graduates. His promotion raises the possibility that some day an ROTC graduate will become Army chief of staff.

As the saying goes that "the eighties were the decade of Hanahoe," from the days of the Fifth Republic through the Sixth Republic, key posts in the executive branch, the legislature, the intelligence organizations, and the military have been virtually monopolized by Hanahoe members. It is not an exaggeration to say that all the Hanahoe members were reared, in a strict sense of the word, by former President Chon Tu-hwan.

Although President No is their benefactor, presumably Hanahoe members feel a stronger sense of personal attachment to the Hanahoe chairman (Chon Tu-hwan).

What role will Hanahoe, which has managed this country for these 10 years both nominally and virtually, play in the next government? How will that group respond if the situation turns in such a way that a non-military person is likely to take over the reins of government? The emergence of the first civilian government since the 16 May military coup may bring about a dire change to the Hanahoe connection.

Kwon Ik-hyon, An Mu-hyok, Yun Tae-Kyun, Yi Won-cho

Public opinion was very severe in criticism against the 5 March DLP announcement of the slate of National Assembly candidates nominated for the national constituency. Some media aired the extreme view that "it will be better to abolish the national constituency as it stands now." According to their analysis, the list of 54 nominees is far from the spirit of the national constituency system aimed at complementing vocational representation.

The most salient feature of the nomination of National Assembly candidates for the national constituency is that the selection was not based on the candidates' objective qualities and public serviceabilities as legislators, but wholly influenced by consideration for their "personal ties" with the factional bosses like No Tae-u and Kim Yong-sam.

Among the National Assembly nominees for the national constituency, Kwon Ik-hyon, former DJP chairman, (11th Military Academy graduating class); An Mu-hyok, former director of the Agency for National Security Planning [NSP], (14th graduating class); Yun Tae-kyun, former president of the Highway Corporation, (13th graduating class), and others are the persons who can hardly deny the suspicion that they must have been nominated on the strength of their "private ties" with President No Tae-u.

These individuals, who are either President No's Military Academy classmates or juniors, belonged to Hanahoe, a secret private organization within the military. According to public opinion, the nomination of Kwon and An was anticipated, whereas the selection of Yun was a surprise. The selection of Kwon Ik-hyon, President No's Military Academy classmate, was not a surprise in view of the long-standing friendship between the two and the political weight Kwon carries. The two, who are the exact opposites of each other in character, have been "the closest friends" since their school days in the Military Academy.

Yun Tae-kyun, who has long been regarded as among President No's few direct subordinates, has a strong political propensity. He was a brigadier general when the 26 October incident [assassination of President Pak Chong-hui] occurred. Records show that on 28 October, two days after the incident, he called on Chon Tu-hwan, then director of the Joint Investigation Headquarters, to warn him, "you should be on your guard because the defense minister and the Army chief of staff might dismiss you as director of the Joint Investigation Headquarters and vindicate Kim Chae-kyu from his crime."

With regard to Yi Won-cho, who was nominated in ninth place from the top, had some connection with Hanahoe in the past, although he is a civilian with a banking experience and not a Military Academy graduate. He has long-standing ties with Yun Pil-yong, Chon Tu-hwan, and No Tae-u, the top leaders of Hanahoe, so intimate that he was investigated as a civilian (he worked in Cheil Bank) implicated in the "Yun Pil-yong case" in March 1973. During the 1987 presidential election, Yi Won-cho was involved in the DJP fundraising campaign in his capacity as director of the Office of Bank Supervision and Examination.

A key No Tae-u intimate said: "Among civilians who are not Military Academy graduates, Assemblyman Yi Won-cho has the most intimate ties with President No. The assemblyman owes it to the president's special consideration that he was able to survive the public hearings concerning the irregularities of the Fifth Republic." He added that the president "decided in the early stage of the nomination process to nominate him [Yi Won-cho], believing that he cannot be protected unless he is a member of the National Assembly."

There are 15 Hanahoe members altogether who registered as candidates for the 14th National Assembly.

Kwon Ik-hyon, An Mu-hyok, and Yun Tae-kyun on the slate of DLP candidates running in the national constituency. Kim Pok-tong (Taegu East A), Ko Myong-sung (Puan), Pak Se-chik (Kumi), Pae Myong-kuk (Chinhae-Changwon), Chong Sun-tok (Chungmu-Kosong-Tongyong), Yi Chun-ku (Chechon), Chong Tong-ho (Uiryong-Haman), and Sin Chae-ki, an incumbent, (Changnyong), on the late of DLP candidates running in local constituencies.

In addition, former Assemblyman Chong Ho-yong (Taegu West-A), O Han-ku, an independent incumbent, (Yongyang-Ponghwa); former assemblyman Kim Sang-ku, former President Chon Tu-hwan's brother in low, (Sangju City and County); and Ho Hwa-pyong, former director of the Research Institute for Modern Society, (Pohang), run for the election as independents. If Yi Hak-pong is included, the number will be 16 altogether, but he has been disqualified as a candidate because the Supreme Court found him guilty. In his place, he put up his wife, Yu Sol-hui, as a candidate.

Monopoly of Key Posts by Turns

Even now Hanahoe members hold important posts in various fields of society. The secret group Hanahoe is not a thing of the past, but continues to exist in reality. For the names of its members from the 11th through the 20th graduating class of the Military Academy, see the attached list.

The most salient feature is that Hanahoe has produced two presidents, namely, Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u, from among the 11th graduating class alone.

On the ministerial level, Chong Ho-yong (11th class) served as home affairs and defense minister. An Pil-chun of the 12th class is the current minister of health and social affairs. Chang Ki-o successively served as vice minister and minister of government administration, and Chong Ton-chol as vice minister of labor. Among the 13th class, Choe Se-chang is the current minister of national defense, and Yi U-chae served as vice minister of communications.

Yi Chun-ku of the 14th class successively served as vice minister and minister of home affairs, and Yi Chong-ku successively served as Army chief of staff and defense minister. Yi Chin-sam (15th class) is the current minister of sports and juvenile affairs.

In addition, the successive directors of presidential security force in the Fifth and Sixth Republics, namely, Chong Tong-ho (13th class), Chang Se-tong (16th class), and An Hyon-tae and Yi Hyon-u (both 17th class) all came from Hanahoe. Song Hwan-ok (18th class) is currently the secretary general of the Board of Audit and Inspection after having served as deputy director of presidential security force.

In addition, Chang Hong-yol (14th class) served as director of the Office of Procurement, Yi Tae-hui (15th class) as director of the Office of Military Manpower Administration, and Choe Pyong-uk (16th class) as director of the Office of Forestry.

An Kyo-tok (11th class) is the current presidential senior secretary for civil affairs. The following are former senior Chongwade secretaries: Chong Sun-tok (16th class) formerly served as first senior secretary for political affairs; Ho Hwa-pyong and Ho Sam-su of the 17th class as senior secretary for political affairs and senior secretary for oversight, respectively; and Yi Hak-pong as senior secretary for civil affairs.

Pak Se-chik (12th class) was successively minister of sports, director of the NSP, and Seoul mayor after having served as chairman of the Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee. He runs for the 14th national election on the DLP ticket. An Mu-hyok (14th class) successively served as director of the Office of National Tax Administration and director of the NSP. Among the total seven directors of the NSP in the reign of the Fifth Republic through the Sixth Republic, four were from the military, and of the four, three came from Hanahoe.

On the party and National Assembly levels, Kwon Ik-hyon (11th class) served as secretary general of the DJP and subsequently as its chairman; O Han-ku (13th class) as chairman of the National Assembly Home Affairs Committee; Pae Myong-ku of the 14th class as chairman of the National Assembly Construction Committee and as chairman of the National Assembly Trade and Industry committee; Yi Chun-ku twice as party secretary general (in 1986 and 1989) and as director of the presidential election campaign headquarters; Kim Sang-ku (15th class) as chairman of the National Assembly Education and Sports Committee; Chong Sun-tok (16th class) twice as party secretary general (in 1985 and 1990) and as chairman of the National Assembly Finance Committee.

On the military level, Chong Ho-yong (11th class), Pak Hui-to (12th class), Yi Chong-ku (14th class), Yi Chin-sam (15th class), and Kim Chin-yong (17th class) served as Army chief of staff in that order.

The following are the Hanahoe members who headed the Army Security Command: First are the names of former President Chon Tu-hwan and the incumbent president, No Tae-u, of the 11th class. They were succeeded by Pak Pyong-chun (12th class), An Pil-chun (12th class), Yi Chong-ku (14th class), Ko Myong-sung (15th class), Choe Pyong-uk (16th class), and Cho Nam-pung and Ku Chang-hoe of the 18th class. Even now, subsequent to the change of its Korean name from "Poansa" to "Kimusa," the Army Security Command is headed by a Hanahoe member, Lt. Gen. So Wan-su (19th class).

That the 10 successive commanders of the Security Command in the Fifth and Sixth Republic came from Hanahoe symbolizes the nature of Hanahoe.

The very important post of commanding officer of the Capital Defense Command, which is charged with the defense of the capital city of Seoul, has been handed down from No Tae-u (11th class) to Pak Se-chik (12th to Yi Chong-ku (14th class) to Kwon Pyong-sik (18th class) to Kim Chin-yong (178th class) to Ku Chang-hoe (18th class) to Kim Chin-son (19th class) to An Pyong-ho (20th class). It is worthy of note that the posts of commanding officers of the Security Command and the Capital Defense Command, which may be regarded as "royal guards" to the Establishment, have been occupied by Hanahoe members without exception.

In addition, 1st Corps Commander Gen Yi Mun-sok (17th class), 3d Corps Commander Gen Ku Chang-hoe (18th class), and Lt Gen Cho Nam-pung (18th class), Army education commandant, are also Hanahoe members. On the ambassadorial level, No Chong-ki (11th class), is the ambassador to the Philippines after having served as minister to the United States, and Na Chung-pae (15th class) is the ambassador to Saudi Arabia. Pak Tae-chin, member of the Institute for Foreign Relations and Security Studies, served as ambassador to Jordan, and Kim Sang-ku (15th class) as ambassador to Australia.

On the list of board members of important government-invested agencies are: Choe Song-taek (11th class) became the third president of Korea Petroleum Development Corporation succeeding Yi Won-cho; and Kim Sang-ku (15th class) served as its director. Choe Mun-kyu (13th class) is the current chief director of the Petroleum Development Corporation. An Kyo-tok (11th class) served as president of the Agricultural Development Corporation.

In the case of the Mining Development Corporation, the post of its presidency was occupied by Kim Pok-tong, Choe Se-chang, and Chong Man-kil as seventh, eighth, and current president, respectively. An Pil-chun, Chang Ki-o, and Chong tong-chol of the 12th class served as president of the Coal Corporation, chairman of the board of directors of the Workers' Welfare Corporation, and chairman of the board of directors of the Korea Industrial Safety Corporation, respectively.

Chong Tong-ho and Yun Tae-kyun of the 13th class separately served as president of Korea Highway Corporation; Cho Myong-ki served as auditor of the Subway Project Corp; and Kwon Yong-hwi (13th class) is the current chairman of the board of directors of the Changwon Machine Factory Complex. Pak Chong-ki of the 14th class became president of the Korean Electric Power Corp after serving as president of Korea Heavy Industries and Construction Co; Chong To-yong served as president of Songop Corporation succeeding Yi Chae-chon and has recently been transferred to the post of secretary general of the Freedom Federation. Sin U-sik is the current auditor of Korea National Tourism Corporation. Kang Cha-hwa (15th class) is the managing director of the Servicemen's Mutual Aid Association, and Ho Chong-il (20th class) is the present chairman of the Machine Industry Development Corporation after serving for two terms as a DJP member of the 11th and 12th National Assemblies.

List of Hanahoe Members by Military Academy Graduating Class [career highlights in parenthesis]

11th

Chon Tu-hwan: Former President (Hapchon, South Kyongsang Province; Taegu Technical High School graduate; four-star general; commanding general, Army Security Command).

No Tae-u: President (Taegu; Kyongbuk High School; four-star general; CG, Capital Defense Command and Security Command; home affairs minister; DJP chairman).

Chong Ho-yong: Former National Assembly member (Taegu; Kyongbuk High School; four-star general; CG, Capital Garrison Commander; CG, Security Command; Army chief of staff; home minister; defense minister; member, 13th National Assembly).

Choe Song-taek: Former president of Korea Petroleum Development Corporation (Pusan, Kyongnam High School; lieutenant general; division commander; director, Defense Ministry Intelligence Agency).

An Kyo-tok: Presidential senior secretary for civil affairs (Ulchin, North Kyongsang Province; colonel; chief of operation section, Military Headquarters; president and vice chairman, Jung-Woo Development Corp; DJP assemblyman, 11th National Assembly).

No Chong-Ki: Ambassador to the Philippines (Seoul; major general; engineering regiment commander; minister to the United States).

Son Yong-kil: Tongju Industry board chairman (Ulsan, South Kyongsang Province; imprisoned for involvement in the 1973 Yun Pil-yong case; brigadier general).

Kwon Ik-hyon: Placed fifth in the slate of DLP National Assembly candidates running in the National Constituency (Sanchong, South Kyongsang Province; imprisoned for involvement in the 1973 Yun Pil-yong case; colonel; executive director, Samsung Precision Co; DJP assemblyman, 11th and 12 National Assembly; DJP chairman).

Kim Pok-tong: DJP Taegu East-A chapter chairman (Chongsong, North Kyongsang Province; Kyongbuk High School; lieutenant general; Military Academy superintendent; Mining Development Corp president; chairman, Institute for International Cultural Studies).

Nam Chung-su, Pak Kap-yong

12th

Pak Se-chik: DLP Kumi chapter chairman (Chilgok, North Kyongsang Province; major general; CG, Capital Defense Command; Olympic Organizing Committee chairman; NSP director; Seoul Mayor).

Pak Chun-pyong: DJP assemblyman (Okchon, North Chungchong Province; Taejon High School; four-star general; director of personnel administration supervision and deputy chief of staff for personnel affairs, Army Headquarters; secretary general, 12th and 13th National Assembly).

Pak Hui-to: Ex-Army chief of staff (Changnyong, South Kyongsang Province; four-star general; commander of Ranger Command; CG, 1st Army Corps; deputy chief and chief of staff of Army).

An Pil-chun: Minister of Health and Social Affairs (Chungwon, North Chungchong Province; Chongju High School; four-star general; division commander; director of personnel administration supervision and chief of staff for personnel affairs, Army Headquarters; CG, Security Command; field Army commander; president, Korea Coal Corp).

Chang Ki-o: Board chairman, Korea Industrial Safety Corp (Seoul; lieutenant general; airborne regiment commander; division commander; Army special inspector general; Army corps commander; Army education commandant; vice minister and minister of government administration).

Chong Tong-chol: Board chairman, Korea Industrial Safety Corp (Chilgok, North Kyongsang Province; Taekon High School; colonel; division artillery commander; president of Hotel Silla; deputy secretary general, Board of Audit and Inspection; vice labor minister; president, Korea Cultural Development Corp).

Hwang In-su: Ex-vice minister of defense (Sachon, South Kyongsang Province; Kyongnam Commercial High School; lieutenant general; Army deputy chief of staff for intelligence; Military Academy superintendent; chairman, Community Purification Committee).

Choe Ung.

13th

Sin Chae-ki: DJP assemblyman (Changnyong, South Kyongsang Province; colonel; imprisoned for involvement in 1973 Yun Pil-yong case; president, Korea Mining Corp; vice chairman, Central HQ, Korea Fishery Federation; member, 13th National Assembly).

Chong Tong-ho: DLP assemblyman (Uiryong, South Kyongsang Province; Masan High School; lieutenant general; director, Presidential Security Force; chief of staff for personnel affairs, Army HQ; corps commander; deputy chief of staff of Army; Korea Highway Corp president; Korea Highway Association chairman; member, 13th National Assembly).

Hwang Chin-ki: (Taegu; Kyongbuk High School; colonel; placed on reserve list because of involvement in 1973 Yun Pil-yong case).

Cho Myong-ki: (Taegu; major general; provost marshal; auditor, Subway Project Corp).

Yun Tae-kyun: 22d DLP National Assembly candidate in the National Constituency (Chongsong, North Kyongsang Province; Kyongbuk High School; lieutenant general; Army chief of staff, Military Academy; CG, 37th Division; deputy director for intelligence, Army HQ; director of intelligence, Defense Ministry; president, Korea Highway Corp; Highway Association chairman).

Choe Mun-kyu: Board chairman, Korea Petroleum Development Corp (Taejon, Taejon High School; lieutenant general; deputy chief of operation, Army HQ; CG, Capital Corps; president, National Defense College; superintendent, Military Academy; vice chairman, Emergency Planning Committee).

O Han-ku: DLP assemblyman (Ponghwa, North Kyongsang Province; Kyongbuk High School; colonel; chairman, Home Affairs Committee, 11th and 12th National Assembly).

Yi U-chae: Ex-minister of communications (Seoul; brigadier general; president, Electronic Communications Corp; member of 11th National Assembly from National Constituency; minister of communications).

Choe Se-chang: Defense minister (Taegu; Kyongdong High School; four-star general; commando regiment commander; division commander; corps commander; deputy chief of staff of Army; Army commander; chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; president, Mining Development Corp).

U Kyong-yun: Ex-president of Tokpyong Country Club (Yechon, North Kyongsang Province; colonel; CID director).

Kwon Yong-hwi: Board chairman, Changwon Machine Factory Complex (Uiryong, North Kyongsang Province; major general; CG, Army Transportation Command).

Pak Chong-nam: Representative director, New Seoul Combined Services Co (Mokpo, South Cholla Province; colonel).

Chong Chin-tae: Chairman, Emergency Planning Committee (four-star general; deputy commander, ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command).

14th

Pak Chong-ki: Board chairman, Handok Life Insurance Co (Taegu; colonel; placed on reserve list for involvement in 1973 Yun Pil-yong case; president, Jung-Woo Development Co; president, Korea Heavy Industries & Construction Co.; president, Korea Electric Power Corp; chairman, Korea Electric Association).

Yi Chong-ku: Ex-minister of Defense (Taegu; Kyongbuk High School; four-star general; CG, Capital Defense Command; CG, ROK Security Command; army commander; Army chief of staff).

Pae Myong-kuk: DLP Chinhae chapter chairman (Chinhae, South Kyongsang Province; colonel; placed on reserve list for involvement in Yun Pil-yong case;

member, 11th and 12th National Assembly; board chairman, Regional Development Institute).

An Mu-hyok: Eighth DLP National Assembly candidate in the National Constituency (Anak, Hwanghae Province; brigadier general; chairman, Community Purification Committee; director, Office of National Tax Administration; NSP director; board member, Korea Development Institute).

Yi Chun-ku: DLP assemblyman (Changwon, North Chungchong Province; brigadier general; chief of staff for intelligence, Capital Garrison Command member, Finance Subcommittee, National Defense Committee, National Assembly; chairman, Community Purification Committee; member, 11th, 12th, and 13th National Assembly; vice minister and minister of home affairs; DJP secretary general; director, 1987 presidential election campaign HQ).

Chong To-yong: Secretary General, Freedom Federation (Mungyong, North Kyongsang Province; Mungyong High School; major general; department director, Security Command; chief of staff, Security Command; Standing Committee member, Advisory Council for National Unification; chairman, Community Purification Committee; president, Songop Corp).

Sin U-sik: Auditor, Korea National Tourism Corp (Mungyong, North Kyongsang Province; Mungyong High School; major general).

Chang Hong-yol: Director, Office of Procurement (Myongju, Kangwon Province; Kangnung Agricultural High School; director of procurement, Defense Ministry).

Chang Ki-ha: Board chairman in charge of the alcoholic beverage division and concurrently president of Jinro Group; major general).

Sin Ssang-ho (Kyongbuk high school)

Yi Chol-hui: Sungsil University professor (Seoul; master's degree in electronic engineering from Purdue University; doctorate in computer science from Chungang University).

Yi Kyong-chong.

15th

Yi Chin-sam: Minister of sports and juvenile affairs (Puyo, South Chungchong Province; Puyo High School; four-star general; Army commander; Army chief of staff).

Ko Myong-sung: DLP Puan chapter chairman (Puan, North Cholla Province; Chonju Normal School; four-star General; commander, Security Command; Army commander).

Yi Tae-hui: Director, Office of Military Manpower Administration (Yechon, North Kyongsang Province; Kyongbuk High School; lieutenant general; division commander; director of personnel administration supervision and deputy chief of staff for personnel affairs, Army HQ; corps commander; Army special inspector general).

Kim Sang-ku: Ex-assemblyman (Sangju, North Kyongsang Province; artillery commander, Capital Garrison Command; board member, Korea Petroleum Development Corp; ambassador to Australia; DLP assemblyman, 11th National Assembly).

Na Chung-pae: Ambassador to Saudi Arabia (Yesan, South Chungchong Province; Taechon High School; four-star general; division commander; director of strategic planning, Army HQ; corps commander; deputy commander, ROK-U.S. CFC).

Kwon Pyong-sik: Korea Highway Corp president (Yongil, North Kyongsang Province; Kyongbuk High School; lieutenant general; CG, Capital Defense Command; deputy chief of staff, Army HQ; army education commandant; chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff).

Kang Cha-hwa: Managing director, Servocemen's Mutual Aid Association.

Yi Han-chong: Professor, National Defense College (president, Jung-Woo Development Co).

Min Pyong-ton: Ex-Military Academy superintendent (Seoul; Huimun High School; lieutenant general; Army chief of staff for intelligence; commander, Ranger Commando; Military Academy superintendent)

Yi Sang-su.

Pak Tae-chin: member, Institute of Foreign Relations and Security Studies (ex-ambassador to Jordan).

16th

Chang Se-tong: Former NSP director (Kohung, South Kyongsang Province; lieutenant general; director, Presidential Security Force; NSP director).

Choe Pyong-uk: Director, Office of Railways (Namhae, South Kyongsang Province; lieutenant general; CG, Security Command; director, Office of Forestry).

Chong Sun-tok: DLP assemblyman (Chungmu, South Kyongsang Province; lieutenant general; corps commander; member, 11th, 12th, and 13th National Assembly; chairman, National Assembly Finance Committee; DJP secretary general).

Song Ung-sop: (Taegu; Chungang High School; four-star general; first vice chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; ROK military delegate to North-South high-level talks).

Sin Mal-yop: Former Army commander (Ulchu, South Kyongsang Province; Pusan High School; four-star general; division commander; deputy chief of staff).

Chong Man-kil: President, Mining Development Corp (Seoul, Seoul High School; lieutenant general; commander, Fifth Airborne Regiment; 7th Division commander; deputy chief of operation, Army HQ; 5th Corps Commander; president, National Defense College).

Kim Chong-yong: Auditor, Water Resources Corp (Mungyong, North Kyongsang Province; Mungyong High School; major general; chief of staff, Security Command; deputy director of intelligence, Defense Ministry).

17th

Ho Hwa-pyong: Independent candidate for the National Assembly election running in Pohang Constituency, North Kyongsang Province (Pohang, North Kyongsang Province; Pohang High School; brigadier general; senior secretary to CG, Security Command; presidential senior secretary for political affairs; director, Research Institute for Modern Society)

Ho Sam-su: DLP Pusan East chapter chairman (Pusan, Pusan High School; brigadier general; director of personnel, Security Command; presidential senior secretary for oversight); Kim Chin-yong: Army chief of staff (Chungmu, South Kyongsang Province; Pusan High School; four-star general; division commander; CG, Capital Defense Command; army education commandant; deputy commander, ROK-U.S. CFC).

An Hyon-tae: Former director of the Presidential Security Force.

Yi Hyon-u: Director of the Presidential Security Force (Taegu; major general)

Yi Mun-sok: 1st Corps commander (Seoul, Kyongbok High School; four-star general; commander, Ranger Command; deputy chief of staff).

Kim Tae-sop: 7th Corps commander (lieutenant general).

Yu Kun-ha.

Kim Kun-chun: Former corps commander.

18th

Chong Tae-hwa: (major general; placed on reserve list because of involvement in Yun Pil-yong case).

Yi Hak-pong: Former DJP assemblyman (Pusan, Kyongnam High School; brigadier general; deputy commander, Security Command; presidential senior secretary for civilian affairs; second deputy director, NSP; member, 13th National Assembly).

Cho Nam-pung: Education commandant (Pusan, lieutenant general; commander, Security Command).

Ku Chang-hoe: 3d Army commander (Chinju, South Kyongsang Province; four-star general; chief of staff for personnel, Army HQ; CG, Capital Defense Command; commander, Security Command).

Song Hwan-ok: Secretary general, Office of Audit and Inspection (Yongchon, North Kyongsang Province; Taegu Normal School; brigadier general; provost marshal, Army HQ; deputy director, Presidential Security Force).

Kim Chae-hon: Military Academy superintendent (Taegu; lieutenant general).

Kim Chae-chang: Director of operations, Joint Chiefs of Staff (Taegu; lieutenant general; corps commander).

19th

So Wan-su: Security Command commander (Taegu; Kyongbuk High School; commander, Ranger Command).

Kim Chin-son: Deputy chief of staff (Koesan, North Chungchong Province; Koesan High School; lieutenant general; chief of staff for personnel, Army HQ; CG, Capital Defense Command).

Choe Yun-sik: Major general.

Choe Yun-sik: (MP colonel; director of security, Presidential Security Force).

No Sok-ho: Samsung Aerospace Industries vice president (Chung-Ang High School; lieutenant colonel; vice president, Samsung Heavy Industries).

Choe sok-Im: Former provost marshal (major general).

Chang Sok-kyu: Songop Corporation president (Seoul, Kyongbok High School; major general; director of security and chief of staff, Security Command).

20th

Ho Chong-il: Machine Industry Development Association chairman (Kyongsan, North Kyongsang Province; Kyongbuk High School; colonel; DJP assemblyman, 11th and 12th National Assembly; senior secretary to party president; chairman, Ethics Committee).

An Pyong-ho: Capital Defense Command CG (Chinju, South Kyongsang Province; Chinju High School; brigadier general; chief of staff for personnel, Army HQ).

Kim Mu-ung: Major general (ROK-U.S. CFC)

Over 120 Members Connected from Point to Point

"Hanahoe" is a secret organization of regular Military Academy graduates which came to the surface for the first time during the investigation of the so-called Yun Pil-yong case in March 1973. In those days it had 120 or more members consisting of selected members of the 11th through 20th graduating classes of the Military Academy. Chon Tu-hwan, then commander (brigadier general) of the 1st Airborne Ranger Command, was its leader, and the group was under the wings of President Pak Chong-hui.

A Hanahoe member who was placed on the reserve list for his involvement in the "Yun Pil-yong case" confided to this reporter concerning the truth about the case. He explained it as he saw it from a victims's point of view: "In those days Military Academy graduates in the military were divided into two groups, the one with personal ties Yun Pi-yong, commander of the Capital Garrison Command, and the other with personal ties with Kang Chang-song, commander of the Army Security Command. Both are members of the 8th graduating class of the Military Academy and rivals. Many of the officers who are followers of Major General Yun came from Kyongsang Provinces, with Brig Gen Chon Tu-hwan at the center. They monopolized the key posts centering on the Army Capital Garrison Command, the Ranger Command, and the Security Command. On the other hand, the followers of Major General Kang were largely placed in the [Korean] Central Intelligence Agency.

The followers of Kang Chang-song were very unhappy because in many occasions they were discriminated against in terms of promotion in favor of the followers of Yun Pil-yong. Strong grievances were heard among those members of the 11th graduating class who were left behind the front-runners. Major General Kang, seeking an opportunity to ensconce himself as actual leader of the Army, lost no time in arresting followers of Yun Pil-yong when the president issued a special order."

In those days Security Commander Kang Chang-song and others who were in charge of the investigation were completely in the dark about the existence of Hanahoe. They only knew that General Yun had many followers centering on Brig Gen Chun Tu-hwan, but did not have the slightest idea that these followers had a private organization within the military, which was taboo.

Paek Tong-im (15th Military Academy graduating class), then investigation section chief of the Security Command, who was in charge of the investigation, said: "Before the investigation, people in the military suspected that the Yun Pil-yong faction was the likely group which would take the lead in a coup d'etat, and that the Chon Tu-hwan group was a private organization with Yun Pil-yong leading at the at the top. But the investigation showed that it was not true. Yun Pil-yong was nothing but a figurehead placed on the top for decoration.

"As a matter of fact, even General Yun did not know accurately about the nature of Hanahoe, except that it had many of Brig Gen Chon Tu-hwan's close friends and his Military Academy juniors. Brig Gen Chon Tu-hwan, who was a favorite with President Pak Chong-hui ever since the 16 May coup, was quoted as having said to President Pak: "I assure your excellency that there are the juniors who will swing into action the moment your excellency issue an order."

President Pak was said to have asked Gen Yun to "look after those kids well."

Be Loyal to Me, Then...

Chon Tu-hwan organized a private organization as one of the front-runners of the 11th graduating class partly because of his born bossy temperament. But some think that he was rather prompted by the complex he felt toward the Kyongbuk High School graduates as a graduate of Kyongbuk Technical High School himself.

Apparently, Chon organized a private organization as one of the easy means of taking a grip of his juniors by taking advantage of the ranking order of the military. He stuck to the principle to the end in his own way, the principle that he would look after each of his juniors who would make a pledge of loyalty, to the end.

A Hanahoe member said: "While I was staying home for about a year unable to find a job after I doffed my uniform, Chairman Chon sent me 100,000 won each month through my wife. That was not a small amount in those days. I was really thankful for the gift."

The 11th graduating class is still being criticized among Hanahoe members for having a weak cohesive power compared with the junior standard-bearers. This, they say, stems from the rejection syndrome against Chun Tu-hwan among his class mates because he treats them as if they were his juniors.

Kim Pok-tong, in particular, unlike other classmates, was not blindly obedient to the chairman, and this made him held at a distance by Chon Tu-hwan. The strained feelings between the two culminated in Kim's transfer to the reserve in 1982 from his post as Military Academy superintendent.

Hanahoe members regard their "loyalty to the organization" as more important than their own lives. It is unpardonable for them to look up to somebody else than their chairman. When the storm of arrest blew over the Security Command during "the Yun Pil-yong case," a certain colonel among the 11th graduating class behaved as if he had not belonged to Hanahoe. When this behavior became known, he was ostracized by Hanahoe. The 14th and 17th graduating classes are reputedly most outstanding in their power of unity.

Pledge of Loyalty, Red Wine

It is said that the members of the 11th graduating class called private organization led by Chun Tu-hwan was the nickname of "Kim Tae-hwan association" before it was named "Hanahoe." The nickname of the association consisted of three characters taken from each of the names of Kim Pok-tong, No Tae-u, and Chon Tu-hwan, who were among the front-runners of the 11th graduating class. However, the actual leader of Hanahoe was Chon Tu-hwan. Chon treated his class mates in Hanahoe, not as friends but as "subordinates."

According to testimony by concerned officials, the initiation procedure of Hanahoe, which insures "promotion" and "placement," was intricate and strict. The size of membership from each graduating class ranges from 10 to 12, at the most. Officers with the rank of lieutenant and above qualify. The first member from each class is selected and drafted with the consent of the entire 11th graduating class. As the total number of members increases, the successive inductees have to pass an increasingly difficult barrier. The candidate must first get the consent of all the Hanahoe members of his graduating class and then the consent of all the Hanahoe members of the 11th graduating class. When his entry is vetoed by any Hanahoe member of his own graduating class or the 11th graduating class, his admission is barred.

It takes quite long to process a certain A, for stance, as a formal member after he was selected as a candidate. This is because the screening method is very complicated. The would-be candidate is subject to scrutiny for two to three years without his knowing it, on all his background. His academic records until his graduation, his relationships with classmates, his character, the status of his family, his family background, health condition, and private life, and even the private life of his wife, fall under the subjects of investigation. It is not until all these requirements are fulfilled that he is admitted.

It was due to this kind of intricate screening process that Defense Minister Choe Se-chang was able to join Hanahoe only after the 12 December incident. The 12 December incident occurred while he was subject to screening by the 13th and 11th graduating classes for several years, and his behavior during the incident impressed the Hanahoe members so much that he was able to join the organization.

It was an unwritten rule of Hanahoe that when its member was to vacate his key post to take up another post, the shift should be reported to the 11th graduating class without fail so that the vacated post might be filled by his junior specifically designated by the 11th class. Because of this exclusionist organizational chemistry of Hanahoe, the posts of Army chief of staff, commander of the Security Command, and commander of the Capital Defense Command have been virtually monopolized by Hanahoe members until now ever since the 26 October assassination of President Pak Chong-hui.

Mr M, a Kyongbuk High School graduate and member of Hanahoe, described the atmosphere of the initiation ceremony as follows:

"At an appointed time in the home of a member of the 11th graduating class, my senior class, all the group members of the 11th class are gathered sitting in a row on the wooden floor or in a room with tatami floor. Seated at the center is the chairman (Chon Tu-hwan). The inductee goes to the chairman and kneels down before him, swearing an oath to the effect that he will be loyal to the country and the organization. Upon completion of the oath, one of the 11th class fills a glass of red wine for the inductee, who receives the glass of wine with both hands and drinks it up. At that moment he becomes a Hanahoe member."

Hanahoe, being a secret private organization, was more strict about keeping its secrecy than about any other thing. Hanahoe members, because they are connected to each other as isolated points, do not know who belongs to their organization except their classmates. Only its members from the 11th class are in charge of all other members from the 12th through 20th graduating classes.

Junior members address the senior members by the words "elder brother" instead of calling them by their ranks or positions. They call the members from the 11th class "big brothers." When a stranger calls on a member and addresses him as "brother," then he realizes that the stranger is his junior Hanahoe member.

Afraid of exposure, Hanahoe has never had a general meeting. There were only regular meetings of each class. It is an established tradition that one of the members from the 11th class invariably attends the regular meeting of members of another class, which is held annually, to give words of encouragement. The sites of annual meetings are rotated from house to house. One such meeting was held at the home of Mr Yi Kyu-kwang, the uncle of the chairman's wife.

Yi Chong-chan, Kwon Chong-tae Not Belong to Hanahoe

Among the members of the 12th National Assembly, there are 15 graduates of the regular Military Academy (11th class and the classes that follow), of whom 10 belong to Hanahoe. As of the opening session of the 13th National Assembly, out of the nine Military Academy graduates eight were Hanahoe members. DLP Assemblyman Yi Chong-chan (16th Military Academy graduating class, and a member of the 11th, 12th, and 13th National Assembly), and former Assemblyman Kwon Chong-tal (15th graduating class and member of the 11th and 12th National Assembly) are the rare cases—they were singled out for key posts by the new military leadership group, though they did not belong to Hanahoe.

The present positions of these two, who both played the midwifery role in launching the DJP as non-Hanahoe members, differ markedly from each other. But there is one thing in common between them—their sense of "loneliness" which stems from their being non-Hanahoe members despite their military background.

Beyond imagination is the sense of alienation and frustration felt by those Military Academy graduates who have been discriminated against in promotion and placement simply because they do not belong to Hanahoe. They even complain so bitterly, "we do not understand why the government pays annuities to the offenders (any private organization in the military is illegal)."

Hanahoe, former President Chon Tu-hwan's private organization, did not show any sign of fissure on the surface at least in the reign of the Fifth Republic. Although very much wary lest anybody other than himself be in control of his subordinates, he did not go beyond cautioning the number two man, No Tae-u, and several other juniors.

In the process of transition to the Sixth Republic, particularly with the distance between former President Chon and incumbent President No growing, a crack began to appear in Hanahoe, however. Min Pyong-ton, Kim Chin-yong, and other generals who are followers of former President Chon appeared to be being "pushed back" while President No's so-called ""9/9 group" were being selected for key posts.

The following general officers who as Hanahoe members once held or currently hold key posts are categorized as belonging to the 9/9 group" because they once served under No Tae-u as chiefs of staff or battalion or regimental commanders when he was the commander of the 9th Airborne Regiment and subsequently the commander of the 9th division: Yi Chin-sam (15th class), minister of sports and juvenile affairs; Yi Ung-sop (16th class), first vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Yi Mun-sok (17th class), commanding general of the 1st Army Corps; Kim Chin-son (19th class), Army vice chief of staff; and An Pyong-ho (20th class), commanding general of the Capital Defense Command.

It is too early to predict how the "9/9 group" within Hanahoe will fare in the next government. If the situation develops in such a way that the presidential power is turned over to a bona fide civilian in the presidential election following the 24 March general election, how will Chon Tu-hwan's Hanahoe and No Tae-u's "9/9 group" try to find a way?

If they regard the emergence of the first civilian president since the 16 May coup d'etat as a menace to their survival, they may show their formidable power of cohesion by regrouping themselves into the do-or-die group, Hanahoe.

Burma

Meeting Discusses Regional Narcotics Control Work

BK2805025492 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] A meeting was held in the the conference hall of the People's Police Force Headquarters in the Office of the Cabinet at 0930 today to coordinate details of work to be carried out by departments in Burma under the subregional narcotic control program between Burma and China and Burma and Thailand in Silu and Pankai in eastern Keng Tung in the eastern Shan State and Adi and Sanlu in Tachilek Township. The program is the first of its kind to be implemented by neighboring countries in Southeast Asia under the United Nations Narcotic Control Program, in accordance with the resolution of the 17th special conference on narcotic drugs of the UN held in New York during 1990.

The meeting was attended by Police Director San Thein and departmental officials.

More Political Prisoners Released From Jails

BK2705143992 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] U Tin Win, who served as a member of the National League for Democracy [NLD] central body and against whom action was taken and who was detained in May 1991; as well as U Saw Hlaing, U Thein Pe, U Thein Tun, U Ye Htut, and U Tun Aung from the NLD, and two other persons, against whom action was taken and who were detained in March 1989, have been released today from the Insein Central Jail in accordance with Declaration No. 11/92 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC].

Similarly, U Kyee Myint, who served as vice chairman of the Burma United Democratic Party and against whom action was taken in August 1991 in accordance with the existing laws and who was serving his sentence at Prome Jail; U Victor Clyde, U Mahn Myaing Aye, and two persons from the NLD, against whom action was taken in July 1991 and who were serving their sentences at Moulmein Jail; U Khin Maung Kyi from the NLD, against whom action was taken in September 1991 and who was serving his sentence at Pakokku Jail; and two other persons against whom action was taken in January 1992 and who were serving their sentences at Bassein Jail, were also released today from their respective jails in accordance with SLORC's Declaration No. 11/92.

Responsible officials from the Directorate of the Defense Services Intelligence visited the Insein Central Jail today afternoon and met with those who were to be released and read out to them SLORC's Declaration No. 11/92 issued on 24 April and the order of the home affairs minister regarding the reduction of jail terms imposed.

Those to be released were then permitted to meet with their families and were later released.

Delegation Leaves for Rio Earth Summit

BK2805145092 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] A Burmese delegation led by U Ohn Gyaw, minister of foreign affairs, left Rangoon by air this morning to attend the United Nations Conference on Environment and Protection to be held in Brazil in early June 1992.

The delegation was seen off at Rangoon Airport by Major General Myo Nyunt, minister for religious affairs; U Soe Tha, minister for communications, post, and telegraphs; and responsible personnel from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Cambodia

Akashi Warns Khmer Rouge Against Noncompliance

BK2905075392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Mr. Akashi, head of the UN transitional authority in Cambodia [UNTAC]), spoke at a meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] on the morning of 26 May. While talking about preparations to implement the second phase, he asked the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] to submit by early next week information on steps it had already taken. He strongly warned the PDK against any noncompliance.

Mr. Akashi added: A party has failed to take a number of steps that must be taken even though the Paris accord has already been signed. He also listed 12 steps that need to be taken before Phase Two could be implemented on 13 June. The steps that should be taken, include refraining from further violations of cease-fire in Kompong Thom and Kompong Cham Provinces and elsewhere; putting a halt to the aggressive posture in Kampot Province; and arranging for all the parties' armies with their armaments, ammunition, and equipment to report to regroupment areas by 27 June, that is within two weeks after the beginning of the phase two.

Mr. Akashi asked all parties to inform him early next week about their full compliance with the 12 steps he listed. Otherwise, he said, he would request the UN secretary general to ask the UN Security Council to meet to review the situation.

Khieu Samphan Reiterates Stand on Accord 26 May

BK2805050992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] On 26 May at a meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] held under the chairmanship of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and SNC chairman, His Excellency [H.E.] Khieu Samphan, SNC member and head of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] made a speech to reaffirm the PDK's stance on how to implement [the Paris accord] correctly. H.E. Khieu Samphan said: Our meeting today is of vital importance. We all should jointly review the progress of the Paris accord's implementation. Anyway, I wish to raise the following questions:

1. In the past, was the PDK wrong or right to just demand that all categories of Vietnamese forces withdraw from Cambodia in keeping with the Paris accord?

2. Is it too much when we demand that checkpoints be set up along the Cambodian-Vietnamese border in order to prevent the Vietnamese from shipping armaments to Cambodia?

3. Is it excessive when we only demand that the four Cambodian parties join in verifying the process of regrouping, confining, disarming, and demobilizing the armies of the four Cambodian parties?

4. Can we be accused of breaching the Paris accord when we only want to defend the role of the SNC, which is the sole legitimate source of authority in Cambodia and

5. Is it fair when we are accused of hesitantly accepting the principle of unrestricted access? In fact, we have asked for free access to areas controlled by the four Cambodian parties via the process of handing over the authority to the SNC in accordance with the Paris accord.

After voicing the five questions, H.E. Khieu Samphan reminded those present that the Paris accord's objective is to allow the Cambodian people to enjoy their rights to self-determination. These rights are clearly defined by article 1 of the two international conventions on human rights. The Cambodian people's rights to self-determination can only be achieved if a neutral political environment exists, thereby allowing for the holding of UN organized-and-supervised free and just elections. So to implement this, it is necessary:

1. To restore peace and independence to Cambodia; and
2. To achieve national compromise and reconciliation within the framework of the SNC headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state.

The two aspects, which are closely related and cannot be separated, are connected to an overall solution to the Cambodian problem. Only with Cambodia recovering its independence can necessary conditions for national reconciliation and compromise exist.

The Paris accord is a comprehensive agreement the terms of which should be executed completely. However, in the implementation some aspects need priority execution.

To create the neutral political atmosphere, it is imperative:

1. To verify the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia and their nonreturn to the country;
2. To disarm and demobilize the armies of the four Cambodian parties; and

3. To hand over necessary authority to the SNC to enable it to perform its tasks as a unique legitimate body and source of authority in Cambodia.

H.E. Khieu Samphan underlined: Therefore, in the concrete execution, the total withdrawal of the Vietnamese forces must be verified—this constitutes the first priority. As for overseeing the regrouping, disarming, and demobilization of the four Cambodian parties' armies, it is only the secondary issue.

Only by executing the first priority beforehand and the second priority later can Cambodia avoid heeding the tragic fate of South Vietnam which was invaded by North Vietnam's Armed Forces after the signing of the Paris accord on Vietnam in 1973.

H.E. Khieu Samphan told the meeting that in the implementation of the Paris accord on Cambodia, if the accord's aspects are not respected in an orderly manner and if the process of disarming and demobilizing the armed forces of the Cambodian national resistance is enforced prior to taking measures to verify the full withdrawal of the Vietnamese, the Cambodian nation's survival will be affected for certain. In this situation, the Vietnamese do not need to send their troops to Cambodia—they can employ their forces of various aspects currently in hiding in the country to attack the resistance forces. If this happens, nobody can come to help Cambodia eventually.

H.E. Khieu Samphan raised another issue by saying: The Paris accord requires a neutral political atmosphere. However, this issue can only be dealt with if necessary power is handed over to the SNC to enable the council to function in its capacity as the unique legitimate body and sources of authority in Cambodia. So far, this prime significance of the Paris accord has not yet been implemented. As such, other important main issues cannot be resolved. Actually, the implementation of the accord's vital significance will:

1. Help restore peace and independence to Cambodia because the SNC is able to join in the effective verification of the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia and their nonreturn to the country;

2. Help achieve national reconciliation and concord that the entire Cambodian people aspire for and that can be necessary conditions for ensuring peace and stability in Cambodia;

3. Help promote mutual genuine trust and the rights to procure unrestricted access;

The PDK has asked for free access to areas controlled by the four Cambodian parties because this can help prevent Vietnam from concealing its forces within a party, the cease-fire from being violated, and Cambodia from being divided into four parts; and

4. Help solve various problem of foreign aid.

Our Cambodian people cannot understand why those significant aspects have not been implemented to endow the SNC with sufficient authority since this will help execute other aspects of the Paris accord correctly.

H.E. Khieu Samphan added that the PDK wishes to reaffirm that it is pleased with the decision on setting the date of the second phase of cease-fire on 13 June. The PDK will continue to sincerely and meticulously execute every term of the Paris accord and will do its utmost to preserve the date of 13 June from being delayed.

In our opinion, the difficulties and obstacles in the past were caused by the nonobservance of the accord in an orderly manner and by the refusal to hand over authority to the SNC. There are only 19 days left from now till 13 June. So we are of opinion that it is not too late provided necessary measures are taken to correctly execute the process.

On the military aspect, it is necessary to take the following steps:

1. Completely organize and set up checkpoints along the Cambodian-Vietnamese border;

2. Urgently dispatch and station representatives of the four Cambodian parties at those checkpoints;

3. Urgently dispatch and place 20-30 UN ground troops at each checkpoint; and

4. Properly draw up (?overall) plans and programs to regroup, confine, disarm, and dissolve the armies of the four Cambodian parties. And the factional Cambodian forces have to execute the plans and programs simultaneously—not early or late.

On the civilian aspect, it is necessary to delegate authority and essential means to the SNC so as to enable the council to pursue its tasks as the unique legitimate body and source of authority in Cambodia.

H.E. Khieu Samphan concluded that providing the aforementioned measures are enforced, obstacles or difficulties encountered by the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] and SNC in the implementation of the Paris accord could be settled eventually. The PDK as well as the entire Cambodian people only want the correct and complete implementation of the Paris accord.

These views are presented with the spirit of offering contributions to making the implementation of the Paris accord correct. Only with the correct execution can Cambodia recover security, peace, and independence and can Southeast Asia regain security, peace, and stability, thereby making the United Nations' image and reputation as well as its charter more fabulous. We always believe in the UN charter.

On the issue of the UN secretary general's envoy, Akashi, having final say when consensus cannot be reached or when the prince SNC chairman does not decide, H.E. Khieu Samphan held that every decision should be taken according to the wording and the spirit of the Paris accord.

UNTAC Meets FUNCINPEC; Urges Cooperation

BK2805063892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] On Wednesday, 27 May, a mixed delegation of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] made up of responsible officials from different fields paid a visit to the zone under the control of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party in Ampil District, Oddar Meanchey Province, to discuss with FUNCINPEC leaders issues concerning the implementation of the Cambodia peace plan. The delegation was composed mainly of Mr. Dennis McNamara, in charge of human rights, Mr. (Fishel) of the civilian administration, Professor Austin, in charge of the elections, and several other high-ranking UNTAC officials.

On the FUNCINPEC side were Prince Norodom Sereivut, responsible for the office of the FUNCINPEC Party in Phnom Penh and in charge of human rights; His Excellency [H.E.] Tea Chamrat, secretary general of the FUNCINPEC Party and in charge of the interior; and H.E. Yu Hokkri, chef de cabinet of FUNCINPEC Chairman Prince Norodom Ranariddh and in charge of civilian administration.

During the hour-long meeting, the UNTAC delegation called for cooperation between UNTAC and the FUNCINPEC Party in implementing the Cambodia peace plan. The discussion ended in a cordial atmosphere at 1515 the same afternoon.

SRV Reportedly Moves Troops in Kompong Trach

BK2505041992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 24 May 92

[Excerpt] According to a report from Kompong Trach District of Kampot Province, the Vietnamese aggressor forces from the fourth Vietnamese Military Region stationed in Kompong Trach District have repositioned a sizable contingent of their soldiers in an area south of the Vinh Te River. Those Vietnamese soldiers, who speak broken Cambodian and have been disguising themselves as central region forces of the Phnom Penh faction for two or three years, are standing by to carry out offensives against the Cambodian national resistance forces in the district of Kompong Trach.

Knowing that the forces of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] and the four Cambodian parties were discussing the setting up of checkpoints at various points along the Cambodian-Vietnamese border, including at Lok and the provincial town of Kampot, those Vietnamese aggressor troops have started to move their positions in the district to the south of

Vinh Te River. They are stationed on the river's banks, instantly ready to intervene in Kampot Province. [passage omitted]

Planning Minister Receives U.S. Envoy 27 May

BK2905050492 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] On 27 May at the Ministry of Planning, Mr. Chea Chanto, planning minister of the State of Cambodia [SOC], held talks with His Excellency [H.E.] Charles Twining, special envoy of the United States to Cambodia. The planning minister told the U.S. diplomat that the Cambodian People's Party and the SOC Government have adopted a broad economic policy so as to gradually develop Cambodia. The State has transformed the planned economy into a free-market economy and has also considerably allowed national and foreign firms to make investment and conduct various operations in the country. He added that a number of U.S. companies have invested in the sectors of electricity and telecommunications in the country.

Hun Sen Meets Visiting British Diplomat 27 May

BK2805122592 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1108 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK May 28—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen received here Wednesday, 27 May, a visiting delegation of the British Ministry of Foreign Affairs led by its under state secretary Mr. John Coles.

Speaking to his guest, Hun Sen who is also member of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC) highlighted the delegation's visit to Cambodia, which, he said, took place at a time when the situation in Cambodia was in an important stage.

He informed Mr. John Coles of the current situation in Cambodia, the implementation of the Paris peace agreement and the outcome of the recent meeting of the SNC on the demobilizing of all forces, and the preparation for the future elections.

In reply, the British diplomat said his visit was aimed at examining the situation in Cambodia since the deployment of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) and keeping in touch with UNTAC's activities.

He expressed his country's support for the United Nations in solving the Cambodian problem and the British role in taking part in the U.N. mandate in Cambodia in order to avoid the recurrence of the policies and pratices of the recent past. He also reiterated the British contribution of 150 million U.S. dollars in the operation of UNTAC.

During his five-day visit ending tomorrow Mr. John Coles had an audience with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the SNC, and met with Cambodian People's Party Chairman Chea Sim and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong.

Indonesia

U.S. Urged To Adopt Wise Stance on Environment

BK2805144092 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1342 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Jakarta, May 27 (OANA-ANTARA)—Indonesia urges the United States that in handling the global environment, it should not pay attention to its own interest only because the issue concerns the interest of all nations.

Indonesia hopes that the Washington Administration will adopt a wise stance in facing the environment problems, State Minister of the Environment and Population Affairs Professor Emil Salim said when meeting with officials of various institutions here Wednesday.

The meeting, which was also attended by State Secretary/Minister Murdiono, discussed matters relating to Indonesia's preparations for the upcoming Earth Summit, scheduled for June 1 to 14, in Rio de Janerio, Brazil.

The summit which will be attended by 175 state leaders will be preceded by a pre-conference and a ministerial meeting, from June 1 to 11.

Emil Salim made the call in a response to the fact that the United States still adopted a firm stance in seeking ways to solve the environment problems, particularly with regard to the forest management, global climate and wildlife.

He said that, as 175 presidents and state leaders were expected to be present, the summit might become a forum of a conflict of interest.

However, Indonesia hopes that the summit will produce a number of important decision, he said.

Asked whether President Suharto would attend the summit, Emil Salim said that the presence of the president had not yet been decided.

Malaysian Government Says No War Over Spratlys

BK2905092192 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0830 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Jakarta, May 29 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Visiting Malaysian Chief of Defense Forces General Yaacob Zain has assured Indonesia that the dispute over the Spratly Islands will not erupt into a military conflict in the South China Sea.

Indonesia has expressed concern that the dispute over the Spratlys, which are being claimed in whole or part by Malaysia, China, Taiwan and Vietnam, the Philippines and Brunei, could create security problems.

Gen. Yaacob said he assured his Indonesian counterpart Gen. Try Sutrisno and the republic's Defence and Security Minister L.B. Murdani that Malaysia's claim would not lead to war.

Speaking to Malaysian reporters here, Gen. Yaacob said he had told the Indonesian leaders that China and Vietnam had pledged to cooperate with Malaysia in finding a peaceful solution to the dispute through economic measures.

Gen. Yaacob arrived here on Tuesday for a five-day official visit, his first since being appointed chief of defence forces.

He called on Gen. Try and Murdani on Wednesday in keeping with an ASEAN tradition for new chiefs to pay courtesy calls on their regional counterparts.

Gen. Yaacob, who had said last March that Malaysia would defend its claim to a part of the Spratlys "until the last drop of blood", said "We are happy with China and Vietnam's readiness to cooperate. We are confident that the dispute will not reach a critical situation that can lead to a war."

China and Vietnam were engaged in a brief but bloody naval battle in 1988 over their claims of the Spratlys.

Gen. Yaacob, who had earlier visited Singapore, said the Malaysian, Indonesian and Singapore armed forces would hold a tripartite meeting soon to discuss ways to overcome robberies on commercial vessels in the Straits of Malacca.

"By our definition, what have been taking place in the Straits are robberies. Piracy is associated with such incidents in the high seas," he said.

The meeting, suggested by Gen. Try, would formulate measures to assist the agencies of the three countries responsible for looking after the international passage, he said.

At present, he added, the police forces of the three countries had already formed a joint committee to take formal measures against robberies in the straits.

Asked on reports that the British Royal Navy might escort and protect British merchant ships plying the straits, he said the plan was very unlikely to be carried out as the British Navy had no presence in this region.

"However if they want to go ahead with the plan, we cannot stop them because the straits is a free passage provided the naval ships are making innocent passage," he said.

12 East Timor Rebels Surrender to Authorities

BK2805145392 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Twelve members of the Fretilin [Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor] have surrendered to the combat operation posts of the Indonesian Armed Forces in East Timor. The security personnel have found not only those Fretilin members, but also several neglected children handed over by villagers living near the forests.

Speaking to ANTARA in Dili, Brigadier General Theo Syafei, commander of the East Timor Operations Command, said that in the past, Fretilin members could steal villagers' cattle and agricultural products for their survival in the forests, but now they can no longer do that because of the security authorities' presence among the villagers. Brig. Gen. Theo Syafei added that after their failure to obtain their supplies and continued security operations against them, Fretilin remnants decided to surrender to the authorities. Surrendering to the authorities is considered a better option than starving to death in the East Timor forests. Fretilin members also disclosed that their commanders had ordered them to avoid armed clashes with security authorities so as to save ammunition and their own lives.

Philippines

U.S. Talks on Troop Pullout, Facilities Access

HK2905093992 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] The Philippines and the United States have begun discussions on the pullout of U.S. troops and access to the military facilities it leaves behind. Admiral Charles Larson, commander of the U.S.-Asia Pacific Defense Command, represented the United States. The discussion on U.S. access to Cubi Point proposed by U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner was contained in the Mutual Defense Board's regulations. Larson's visit and courtesy call on President Aquino will serve as the U.S. troops' formal farewell. Wisner said that despite the pullout of the military bases in the Philippines and whether or not there is a cold war, the United States will remain a power in the Pacific. In the meeting, Larson said the Philippines has to decide what role it wants to take in Asian security the moment the U.S. forces officially pull out in December. He believes that both sides will continue to have strong military relations despite the coming pullout from the country. He added that the United States still needs the help and cooperation of other countries and stressed that America will emphasize cooperation and not confrontation in their diplomatic negotiations with other countries. He was evasive in giving a reaction to the crisis in Thailand, saying that the Thailand issue was not discussed in their meetings with Asian leaders.

Supreme Court Rules Against U.S. Officials

HK2905023792 Quezon City MALAYA in English 29 May 92 p 6

[Text] The Supreme Court ruled yesterday that American officials and servicemen are not immune from suits and can be held liable for acts committed even in the performance of their "official duties."

In a 19-page decision written by Justice Hugo Gutierrez Jr, the high tribunal said two officials formerly assigned to the U.S. naval base in Subic were "personally liable" for the damages suffered by a Filipina worker, Aurora Rarang, whom they maligned 14 years ago.

The Supreme Court upheld a decision of the then Intermediate Appellate Court which found that "acts and omissions" of Capt James Williams, former commanding officer of the U.S. naval base, and M.H. Wylie, assistant administrative officer, "were not imputable against the U.S. government but were done in (their) individual and personal capacities."

Rarang, who was working at the Office of the Provost Marshal, filed a complaint against Williams and Wylie for causing in February 1978 publication in the base's "Plan of the Day" newsletter an article stating that "Auring" was "consuming confiscated items" kept in the provost marshall's office. Rarang was the only "Auring" working in that office. The article also described Rarang as a "disgrace to her division."

Williams approved the printing of the newsletter with Rarang's name while Wylie was in charge of the publication.

The high court said the two American officials were negligent. "Such act or omission is ultra vires and cannot be part of official duty," it said.

Rarang, who had been recipient of several commendations for honesty and integrity in her office, first sued the two officials for damages before the then Zambales court of first instance.

In her complaint, she said that the article "constituted false, injurious and malicious defamation tending to impeach her honesty, virtue and reputation."

The lower court decided the case in her favor and ordered the two officials to pay Rarang damages amounting to P130,000.

William and Wylie appealed the ruling.

Military 'Shrug Off' Sino-Vietnamese Squabble

HK2705033492 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 27 May 92 p 15

[Text] While foreign affairs officials watch with bated breath over developments in the renewed China-Vietnam conflict over the Spratly Islands, military officials, on the other hand, just shrug off the "potentially explosive" situation.

"We don't think it will escalate into full-scale war," Armed Forces chief of staff Lisandro Abadia told BUSINESS WORLD.

The Philippines is claiming jurisdiction over an eight-isle group, the Kalayaan chain of islands, out of the 45 islands being disputed by six claimant countries. Other countries involved in the territorial claim are Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei.

Some four years ago, China and Vietnam engaged in a brief firefight over a certain area in the disputed territory.

The latest conflict between the two countries arose when China commissioned an American firm to survey the offshore area of Tu Chinh Bank, an island, also claimed by Vietnam as within its continental shelf, for possible oil exploration and extraction.

"I don't think the situation will worsen. It is not logical for a country to develop an island which is being contested by several countries," Philippine Air Force commanding officer Loven Abadia said, when asked to assess the situation.

At present, several Marines and Airforce personnel are rehabilitating the airstrip in Pagasa Island, the largest island in the Kalayaan chain.

When pressed if the existing tense situation does escalate into war and other claimants are drawn into the conflict, the Air Force chief jokingly said, "We'll complain!"

"No," another senior officer quipped, "we will launch our Tora-Tora and let the enemies die from laughing!"

The military leaders, when asked on the issue of Spratly Islands being touted as the next flashpoint, has always maintained that the conflict can be resolved at a conference table.

Besides, the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] has long acknowledged the sorry state of its external logistics and materials capability to be able to defend successfully the territory.

Government Sees No Need for New Security Policy

HK2805130592 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1100 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Press Secretary Horacio Paredes stressed that the security measures currently implemented by the Armed Forces in the country are very effective and useful. Malacanang issued the statement in response to inquiries by some citizens regarding a possible adoption of a new security policy amid the threat of trouble by the rightist rebels. Paredes said the present government's leadership has become more determined and adamant in preventing any attempt by the rebel soldiers to launch a new coup d'etat and that there is no need for the implementation of new security measures.

Police Begin Consultations With Foreign Firms

HK2805020292 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 28 May 92 p 7

[By Joey Caburnida]

[Text] Security officers of at least 15 foreign embassies and multinational firms met yesterday with top officials of the Philippine National Police [PNP] to strengthen security guidelines on foreigner protection in the country.

Police Deputy Director General Gerardo Flores, the PNP deputy chief for operations, said representatives of several foreign firms and embassies including Japan, the United States, Canada and European countries attended a security briefing at Camp Crame.

Flores said the meeting would signal the start of regular consultations between the PNP and security officers of foreign embassies and big firms with investments here.

He said the police agreed to add more teeth to current security guidelines to prevent kidnappings and other terrorist attacks on foreigners, particularly business executives and foreign officials.

Flores said the guidelines would draw some lessons from the Jan. 17 kidnapping of Michael Barnes, vice president of Philippine Geothermal, Inc. and director of the influential American Chamber of Commerce.

Barnes was kidnapped by suspected members of the Red Scorpion group [RSG], reportedly a splinter of the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines, in a broad daylight attack in front of his office in Makati.

He was rescued March 18 by police commandoes after daring simultaneous raids on several suspected RSG safehouses which left 14 suspected kidnappers dead.

A Japanese who asked not to be named told reporters the foreigners had learned a "valuable lesson" from the kidnappings of Barnes and Japanese business executive Noboyuki Wakaoji, who was also kidnapped on Nov. 15, 1986.

But he and other security officers refused to divulge details on the guidelines discussed during the meeting, saying it would preempt plans.

Regional Court Orders Aquino To Testify in Case

HK2905022592 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 29 May 92 p 16

[Text] The Manila Regional Trial Court [RTC] yesterday directed President Aquino to appear in court and testify as the first defense witness in the controversial libel case she filed against five journalists.

Acting under the jurisdiction of judge Ramon Makasiar, the lower court issued a subpoena to Mrs. Aquino ordering her to appear in the said judicial body on June 15, 1992 and continue the hearing of the case.

It may be recalled that Mrs. Aquino filed the libel suit against former PHILIPPINE STAR columnist Luis Beltran, STAR publisher Maximo Soliven and three others after Mr. Beltran wrote in his column that Mrs. Aquino hid under her bed at the height of the August 1987 failed coup attempt.

The outgoing Philippine president has already testified before the Manila RTC last February 1991 as the prosecution's last witness.

Mr. Beltran's counsels Dean Antonio Coronel and Renato Cayetano cross examined the president. When it was time for the defense's counsel to call on Mrs. Aquino to testify as the first adverse witness, she refused to be further interrogated, saying she had already done her part.

This prompted Mr. Beltran to seek legal relief before the lower court. Mr. Beltran's bid to get the consideration of the lower court was foiled twice by Mr. Makasiar. The lower court judge dismissed the plea of Mr. Beltran on the ground that the court has no jurisdiction to direct the president to appear in court.

This issue was then elevated to the Court of Appeals. Mr. Beltran's counsel pointed out that Mrs. Aquino had already shed her immunity from suits when she sued the journalists.

"She is now subject to compulsory procedures of the court since she is now an ordinary litigant," they said.

The appellate court gave weight to this contention as it reversed and set aside the ruling of the lower court.

Thus, in compliance with the directives of the appellate court, the lower court issued the subpoena directing the President to appear in court and testify as an adverse witness.

New Administration To Face Budget Shortfall

HK2905022392 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 29 May 92 p 17

[By Arleen Chipongian]

[Text] The new administration faces a P7.4 billion [peso] budget shortfall next year following the continued slowdown in the sale of government assets and the decline in foreign grants, Budget Secretary Salvador Enriquez warned yesterday.

He said only P10 billion in revenue measures have been identified out of the P17.4 billion needed for 1993.

The Development Budget Coordination Committee has proposed a budget of P322.7 billion for next year.

Enriquez said that the new administration faces budget cuts of P33 billion from revenue measures. These include a loss of P15.5 billion from the early abolition of the import levy.

An expected slowdown in the privatization program and in the sale of assets acquired by the Presidential Commission on Good Government will further reduce national government revenues by P14 billion.

Two of the big government corporations up for sale are the National Steel Corp and the Duty-Free Philippines Inc.

Enriquez said the full impact of the withdrawal of the U.S. bases would be felt next year with the estimated reduction in foreign exchange proceeds by as much as P3.4 billion.

The amount represents the official development assistance, mostly from the U.S. government, that is tied to the continued presence of the American facilities here.

Because of the financial bind, the new administration may have no alternative but to provide a provision in the 1993 budget specifying that unidentified revenue measures be considered as standby or unprogrammed appropriations, Enriquez said.

Among the new expenditures next year is the P4.3 billion initial appropriation for the 10-year modernization program of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, he said.

Other new additional expenditures include the rehabilitation of the Central Bank, increased infrastructure spending, and the bases conversion program.

As a stop-gap measure, the outgoing Aquino administration is proposing a two-tiered budget allocation process where a ceiling will be imposed on expenditures for personnel services.

Trade Gap Declines in First Quarter

HK2605114992 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 26 May 92 p 8

[By Grace C. Sison]

[Text] With demand for imported goods remaining sluggish due to the government's controversial 5 percent import surcharge the country's merchandise trade gap shrank further during the first quarter of the year, the National Statistics Office [NSO] reported.

In its monthly international trade update, the NSO yesterday reported that the merchandise trade deficit—the excess of imports over exports—as of end-March this year totaled $956 million. This marked an 11.56 percent drop from the $1.081-billion shortfall registered during the same period last year.

NSO administrator Tomas P. Africa said 106 of the expected 31,419 export documents and 42 of the projected 28,600 import entries for March were still expected from the outports.

NSO sources attributed the shrinking trade gap to the depressed demand for imported goods brought about mainly by the import levy. "Many importers have been discouraged by the additional costs the import levy has entailed despite its reduction in August last year," one source said. This development, he explained has considerably weakened the demand for imports.

As of end-March this year, import payments inched up by a mere 3.52 percent to $3.232 billion during the first three months this year from the yearago's $3.122 billion. However, the country's imports are expected to pick up strongly during the second semester this year, thus resulting in a considerable rise in the trade gap. Central Bank sources are projecting a higher trade gap at the start of the second half of the year "on the strength of an economic recovery which will be anchored on increased importations to make up for the slack last year as well as the lifting of the import levy."

The 10 leading import products for the period were: mineral fuel, lubricant and related materials ($502.46 million), machinery other than electric ($369.26 million), electronics and components ($366.58 million), textile yarn, fabrics, made up articles and related products ($275.06 million), electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances ($227.24 million), base metals ($177.53 million), transport equipment ($149.71 million), organic and inorganic chemical ($117.80 million), plastics in primary and non-primary forms ($78.95 million), and cereals and cereal preparations ($57.84 million).

Meanwhile, the significant improvement in the country's export earnings also contributed to the further slide in the trade gap. "Although we have been feeling the negative effects of the continuing appreciation of the peso vis-a-vis the U.S. dollar and the ill effects of the ongoing power crisis, export earnings managed to rise considerably during the period under review," one exporter said.

During the three-month period, export earnings increased by 17.51 percent to $2.276 billion from 1991's $2.041 billion.

However, if the strengthening of the peso continues in the next months, many exporters expect mass layoffs to hit export-oriented companies. The Confederation of Philippine Exporters Foundation [COPEF] expressed fears that local exporters could lose as much as 50 percent of their market to foreign competitors if this problem remains unsolved. COPEF officials said a number of casualties already closed down their operations while some exporters have resorted to retrenchments of their workforce to cut down costs.

The NSO listed the following as the 10 leading dollar earners during the three-month period: articles of apparel and clothing accessories ($471.01 million), electronics and components ($429.54 million), cathodes and sections of cathodes of refined copper ($95.79 million), crude and refined coconut oil ($82.87 million), woodcraft and furniture ($65.38 million), fresh, chilled and frozen shrimps and prawns ($61.52 million), fresh bananas ($42.90 million), pineapple and pineapple products ($38.49 million), ignition wiring sets and other wiring sets used in vehicles, aircraft and ships ($37.81 million), and copper concentrates ($37.70 million).

Power Crisis To Pull Down GNP Growth

HK2705035792 Quezon City MALAYA in English 27 May 92 p 9

[By Grace Q. Bangaoil]

[Text] The recent spate of brownouts will pull down economic growth by as much as 50 percent according to businessmen. In the past 54 days alone, industry leaders estimated that at least P21.6 billion [pesos] had been lost in terms of foregone production and wages paid to non-producing workers.

The amount roughly translates to an estimated gross national product loss of P20 billion for this year.

Industrialist Raul Concepcion in a press conference yesterday said that he was informed by Bank of the Philippine Islands president Xavier P. Loinaz that his group has estimated the loss from the power outtages will result to the decline in GNP [gross national product] growth by 1.5 percentage points, roughly half of the 3.5 target growth for this year.

In the past 54 days, Luzon has suffered 174 hours of brownouts.

Based on the computation of the multi-sectoral task force on power scheduling, the industrial and commercial sectors within the franchise of Meralco [Manila Electric Company] have lost at least P20 billion while.

The power-intensive industries directly connected to the power grid of the National Power Corp., have lost about P1 to P1.6 billion.

Concepcion who chairs the multi-sectoral task force said the country has so far experienced 58 brownouts with an average duration of three hours since March 1.

Not included in the loss estimate is the equally devastating 300 incidents of automatic load droppings when power goes off for a short duration of five to ten minutes that wreck havoc on appliances, not to mention frayed nerves of consumers.

Concepcion said the task force has appealed to both the outgoing and incoming administrations and Congress to give power the highest priority.

The country-wide demand for power is over 4,000 megawatts, excluding a "safe allowance" or net reserve of 300 to 600 megawatts.

Although the installed capacity of all power plants amount to over 6,000 megawatts, many of them are producing below 50 percent of their rated capacity. None of the hydroplants in Luzon are generating at the moment because of the drought.

Concepcion pointed out in a conference yesterday that 10 out of 11 major oil-fired thermal plants are over 25 years old or way past their useful life. Six plants generate an amount of power below 50 percent of their rated capacity.

"It is regrettable that during the last five years, not a single power plant was put into operation except for the 14 gas turbines which have a combined capacity of 560 megawatts and whose operating cost per kilowatt-hour is the highest among the sources of energy," Concepcion said.

The National Power Corporation [Napocor] had to change its plan drastically in 1986 when the government mothballed the 620-megawatt Bataan nuclear power plant.

But it did not install any added capacity, until the 1989-1990 period, when the country felt the effects of prolonged power shutdowns that even lasted days.

Even the stop-gap measures, such as gas turbines, could not be put in place immediately due to the bureaucratic red tape. Coal-fire plants and geothermal projects have also been delayed due to the opposition by interest groups.

Former Napocor president Ernesto M. Aboitiz told Malaya in a chance interview last week that the projects which should be in place now, have been delayed by 2 to 3 years.

Concepcion yesterday raised the possibility of operating the Bataan nuclear plant after the safety aspect has been properly addressed.

He also batted for the importation of two additional gas turbines with total capacity of 400 megawatts, together with the privatization of the rehabilitation and maintenance of "blinkers" such as Malaya 1 and 2, and Sucat 1 and 2.

The power-intensive industries that directly get their power from Napocor have also complained of heavy losses due to intermittent power cuts.

Through their organization called Napocor Industrial Consumers Association, Inc. (NICAI), they have been lobbying for "better treatment" from Napocor.

Probable Senate Committee Lineup Noted

HK2505032892 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Struggle of Filipino Democrats [LDP] President Neptali Gonzales is assured of retaining his position as the Senate president when the leading LDP senatorial candidates agreed to submit to the incoming Senate president [as heard] his name when the Senate convenes in June to proclaim those who will lead the Upper House.

Sixteen LDP senatorial candidates who made it to the top 24 slots of this election endorsed Gonzales as the next Senate president in recognition of his efforts in ensuring the victory of the majority of LDP senatorial and congressional candidates.

Movie actor Vicente Sotto, who is leading in the senatorial race, may be appointed as the chairman of two committees in the Senate; however it is certain that he will not become the next senate president.

The 16 LDP senators have also agreed to submit the names of Senators Alberto Romulo and Teofisto Guingona Jr. for the positions of majority floor leader and president pro tempore respectively. They also agreed to appoint the following to head the different Senate committees: Senator Mercado for the Defense and the Science and Technology Committees; Blas Ople for the Foreign Affairs and Civil Service Committee; Rodolfo Biazon for the Urban Planning and Housing and the Mindanao Affairs Committees; Tito Sotto for the Local Government and the Tourism Committees; and Ramon Revilla for the Public Works and Highways Committee.

An ad hoc committee made up of Romulo, Angara, Alvarez, Webb, and Roco was formed to smooth out any problems that may arise in the chairmanship of the different Senate committees.

Also agreed upon during the meeting was the chairmanship of Heherson Alvarez for the Blue Ribbon and Environment and Natural Resources Committees; Angara for the Finance and the Education, Arts, and Culture Committees; Aquino for the Agriculture and the Government Corporations Committees; Herrera for the Labor and the Ways and Means Committees; and Lina for the Youth and Sports and the Justice and Human Rights Committees.

Senator Romulo also clarified that the aforementioned are not the only names that they will submit during the June Senate meeting, and that this will be the entire line up of the new Senate [as heard].

Troops Pick Santiago Over Ramos in Poll

HK2905065992 Hong Kong AFP in English 0643 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Manila, May 29 (AFP)—Philippine troops preferred populist firebrand Miriam Santiago to former defense chief Fidel Ramos and five other presidential candidates in the May 11 polls, election officials said Friday.

Ex-judge Santiago, running second to Ramos nationwide in a semi-official tally, got the highest number of votes in military camps here as well as in "absentee" ballots from troops in the field, they said.

In a statement issued Friday, Santiago, who claimed to have been cheated of victory by Ramos but has failed to provide evidence, thanked members of the armed forces for supporting her candidacy.

President Corazon Aquino campaigned for Ramos, a former armed forces chief and defense secretary. Santiago briefly served in the Aquino cabinet as land reform secretary.

Spokesmen said that based on copies of official results issued to her People's Reform Party, Santiago garnered 31.3 percent of votes among 5,437 voters in Fort Bonifacio, an army and marine base in suburban Manila. Ramos had only 17.7 percent.

At Villamor Air Base, Santiago topped the presidential race with 35.6 percent of total votes, while Ramos got 16.1 percent, they said.

Santiago, at 46 the youngest of the candidates, had thrilled crowds with her anti-corruption rhetoric.

But she was severely criticized for hurling poll fraud charges without offering proof, and ridiculed for going on a protest hunger strike after the polls in a hospital for only three days, after promising to fast to death.

In a semi-official media tally of the May 11 polls, Ramos was ahead nationally with 23.7 percent of the 18.8 million votes tallied so far from 78 percent of precincts. Santiago was in second place at 19.2 percent.

Rightwing tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco was third with 17.7 percent, followed by House Speaker Ramon Mitra, former first lady Imelda Marcos, former senate chief Jovito Salonga and Vice President Salvador Laurel.

The Philippine Congress was still progressing slowly Friday in its official canvass of the election returns, a laborious confirmation process of the media tally results.

MCQC Cites Attempts To Destroy Credibility

HK2505021292 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] The Media Citizens Quick Count [MCQC] has confirmed that someone has been sabotaging the tabulation of votes to destroy the agency's credibility. MCQC Executive Director Ed Nuque said someone has penetrated their operations and disseminated material urging MCQC volunteers to abandon their posts. The MCQC has found a document accusing the agency of not discharging its duties and claiming that precinct tally forms and advance copies of election returns are being counted instead of the certificates of canvass themselves. The document urged volunteers to walk out in protest at the MCQC's lack of credibility. Nuque hinted that the saboteurs are connected with those who are petitioning the Supreme Court to stop the agency's vote count.

Meanwhile the MCQC has placed under its watch list several towns in Metro Manila, Quezon, Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte because those places were unable to forward their certificates of canvass. An MCQC official who refused to be named said he suspects some officials in those places are blocking the release of the election returns because they want to tamper with the results.

The Commission on Elections has changed its 25 May deadline to allow the MCQC to complete its tabulation.

Mitra To Head Congress' Poll Count of Votes

HK2305035992 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. will head the counting of votes for the presidential and vice presidential candidates which the Congress will conduct on 26 May [as heard].

Acting House Majority Floor Leader Ronaldo Zamora said Mitra changed his mind and has decided to lead the canvassing of votes for the first two top positions in the country. Zamora did not say what made Mitra changed his mind.

Congress Fails To Approve Rules for Vote Count

HK2605102192 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 26 May 92 p 1

[By Tony S. Bergonia and Juliet M. Labog]

[Text] Congress yesterday failed to approve the rules for the official tabulation of the votes for presidential and vice-presidential candidates, and may not be able to start the canvassing today.

The Commission on Elections [Comelec], however, remained optimistic that Congress could proclaim the president-elect and vice president-elect in two weeks.

Commissioner Haydee Yorac ruled out "unnecessary delays" in the canvassing, stressing that grounds for objections have been limited to two.

Congress may only object to or set aside certificates of canvass (COCs) when these are suspected of being fake or forged, or of having been executed by force or coercion, she said.

But the Senate and the House of Representatives, after debating all day long, adjourned last night without approving the proposed rules for the canvass.

In the Senate, the members instead shifted their agenda to the total log ban bill.

Leaders of both chambers, however, agreed to set a meeting today for congressmen and senators to settle their differences over the rules.

Senators and congressmen objected to a provision in the rules which empowers the 14-man joint canvassing committee to decide on any questions on the certificates of canvass.

But acting Majority Floor Leader Ronaldo Zamora, who was appointed head of the House panel, said the set of rules will be submitted to the joint session of Congress at 3 p.m. today.

He said they hope the rules will be approved today and the Senate president can open the first certificate of canvass at 4 p.m.

The proposed rules, prepared earlier by a bicameral committee, provide that the joint committee will decide on any question on certificates of canvass by a majority vote of its 14 members, with each panel voting separately.

The result of the vote will still be subject to approval by the joint session of Congress and, if the chambers disagree, the Senate president will have the final say.

During the debate, Sen. Sotero Laurel said giving congressional powers to the committee may be a violation of the Constitution, which mandates Congress to be the official canvasser of votes for the presidential and vice presidential race.

Gen. Teofisto Guingona said by delegating the power to authenticate election results to the committee, "Congress is usurping the powers of the judiciary in ruling on the validity of the returns."

The 14-man joint canvassing committee, seven from each chamber, will be formally created today.

Under the rules, both chambers will "compel" its members to attend today's joint session which needs a quorum.

Cuenco said that 84 congressmen of the 201-member House is needed to constitute a quorum.

The office of the secretary general said 35 congressmen are not expected to attend since they have sought other elective offices and are considered resigned.

Speaker Pro Tempore Antonio Cuenco, who will preside on behalf of Ramon V. Mitra, said Congress can use its "coercive power" to compel the submission of the certificates of canvass and appearance of Comelec officials and election registrars in case of questionable returns.

Cuenco said Congress will order the police to "fetch" the election officials and the certificates of canvass.

Those who refuse or disobey will be held in contempt.

The rules provide that every candidate be represented by a watcher and a counsel during the canvassing.

The watcher "shall have access to an unimpeded view of the entire proceedings and to keep vigilant watch over the ballot boxes."

The counsel, on the other hand, will "speak and question any certificate of canvass..for not more than five minutes."

The rules also stipulate that the joint committee may recommend to the joint session of Congress for the termination of the canvass "if the canvass not yet transmitted (to Congress) would no longer affect the results of the election."

A report on the results will be signed by the majority of the joint committee and a resolution adopting the report will have to be approved before the official winners are proclaimed. The Senate president will be the one to proclaim the President-elect and Vice President-elect.

Sen. Edgardo Angara, however, said there was nothing to fear about the canvassing process being delayed by one day.

"I don't know why we're rushing the canvassing tomorrow. We've got plenty of time," he said.

Congress has until June 30 to canvass the presidential and vice presidential elections. A power vacuum, wherein there would be no President, is likely to take place if Congress fails to complete its canvass and proclaim a winner in the presidential and vice presidential elections by then.

The House panel is composed of Cuenco, Jose de Venccia of Lakas-NUCD [Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats], Victor Ortega of the Nationalist People's Coalition, Raul Daza of Liberal Party, Milagros Laurel-Trinidad of Nacionalista Party, and Roquito Ablan of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan [New Society Movement].

The seventh member is yet to be chosen as Cuenco said they are still shopping for a congressman who wants to represent Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

"Ang problema ay [The problem is] we can't find a congressman who would want to represent Miriam Santiago," Cuenco said.

The Senate has yet to appoint its seven members to the panel.

Congress will tabulate 94 certificates of canvass from 73 provinces, 11 highly-urbanized cities, nine legislative districts in Metro Manila, and from the absentee votes.

As of yesterday, the Comelec said, at least 66 certificates have already been delivered to Congress.

The House session hall has been set for the canvass. A secluded area right below the Speaker's podium has been assigned for the ballot boxes. A glass-encased drawer containing the keys for every ballot box is near the area. Security contingents of both chambers will provide a 24-hour watch over the ballot boxes.

Eight huge tally boards containing the names of the provinces in alphabetical order will be placed today in front of the session hall. There will also be two summary tally boards.

At the Comelec, Yorac said that aside from the two grounds for setting aside the certificates of canvass, "anything else that Congress may raise or object to belongs to the realm of electoral protest which can only be pursued after the proclamation."

Yorac said the law allows legislators to object to a certain certificate if there are doubts as to the document's authenticity.

The second valid ground is if the legislators have information that it was "not voluntarily executed."

"For instance, if a gun was pointed to the temples of the members of the boards of canvassers so that they were not free to reflect the real figures in the COC," Yorac said.

But even if these two situations should arise, she said, any delay can be resolved quickly because the Comelec will require the presence of the chairman of the board of canvassers concerned to answer questions on the document.

As for erasures or alterations, Yorac said, objections would be allowed only when it involves the positions being canvassed, in this case, the president and vice president.

"Congress cannot set aside a COC which has erasures or alterations on, say, the name or votes of a candidate for congressman," she said.

Congress Tabulation Resumes After Delay

HK2905033392 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] After two days of delay, Congress has resumed its counting of votes for the presidential and vice presidential races. The joint session of the Senate and Congress began at 7:33 [not further specified] tabulating the certificates of canvass from Camiguin Island and Misamis Oriental. Leading in the count was former House Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr with 10,384 votes, closely followed by administration candidate Fidel Ramos with 9,570 votes. Jovito Salonga came third with over 6,000 votes, followed by former first lady Imelda Marcos and Eduardo Cojuangco. People's Reform Party's Miriam Defensor Santiago was in sixth place, with Nacionalista Party's Salvador Laurel still in last place.

In the vice presidential race, Mitra's running-mate, former Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan, led with 9,458 votes; followed by Senator Aquilino Pimentel; Emilio Osmena; and Joseph Estrada. In fifth place was Ramon Magsaysay Jr., followed by his cousin Vicente Magsaysay. In last place was Eva Estrada Kalaw.

Lawyers of the different political parties engaged in a debate for over an hour as they checked on the authenticity of the certificates of canvass from Camiguin, before the counting could get underway.

Meanwhile, Senate President Neptali Gonzales said he will take responsibility for any accusations regarding the Senate's early opening of ballot boxes containing certificates of canvass. He said he is prepared to answer questions from the committee which has been set up to probe the issue. Earlier, Senators Ernesto Maceda and John Osmena complained that the opening of the ballot boxes was done illegally by upper house personnel. However Gonzales denied wrongdoing by Senate employees since they had opened ballot boxes containing certificates of canvass and not boxes containing the actual ballots.

Recruitment of Pilots To Attack Palace 'Foiled'

HK2605115192 Quezon City MALAYA in English 26 May 92 p 1

[By Noel Bartolome]

[Text] The Armed Forces yesterday said it has foiled an attempt by military rebels to recruit helicopter gunship pilots for a planned attack on Malacanang and key military installations.

Maj. Gen. Loven Abadia, Air Force chief, said several Air Force men involved in the recruitment drive were arrested in various parts of Metro Manila last week.

Abadia did not provide details of the arrest. He said the rebel soldiers, who are members of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa [National Revolutionary Alliance] and the Young Officers Union, were undergoing interrogation.

"The rebels are recruiting from the PAF [Philippine Air Force] since we have the necessary firepower. Instead of getting high-powered guns, the rebels prefer to get airplanes and helicopters," Abadia said.

Gen. Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces chief, said he has ordered field officers to be ready to thwart any rebel attempt to disrupt the peaceful transfer of power from President Aquino to her successor.

"The leadership remains prepared to ensure that no untoward incident will detract from the proclamation of the winners and a smooth transition in government," the chief of staff said.

He dismissed the threat of another coup attempt by military rebels. "The RAM [Reform the Armed Forces Movement] cannot launch another coup without AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] units and they can't even get a company of troops," he said.

Abadia said the rebels tried to mislead the helicopter pilots by telling them that an aerial attack on Malacanang and military camps would serve as a signal for rebel ground troops to attack. Abadia quoted the rebels as telling the pilots: "Pare, sumama na kayao sa amin para may lumusob sa Malacanang at Camp Aguinaldo, tapos aatake na ang mga ground forces nation." ["Pal, join us and we will storm Malacanang and Camp Aguinaldo, after which our ground forces will attack."]

He said the military rebels do not have ground forces.

He also denied reports of a rebel plan to seize control of government and military installations in Iloilo City to spark a nationwide uprising.

Iloilo City is a bailiwick of presidential candidate Miriam Defensor Santiago who ranks second in the unofficial tally of the Media Citizens Quick Count. Santiago has [accused] the government of cheating to ensure the victory of its candidate, Fidel V. Ramos.

Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon said any attempt to grab power will not succeed because it will not be supported by the people.

"What is important to remember in all these rumors of plots to derail the post-election process is that there is nothing that anyone can do that would achieve that goal," he said.

Chief Superintendent Frederique Romero, PNP [Philippine National Police] director for Western Visayas, doubted the capability of military rebels to take over government offices in Iloilo City, saying there is "no hardcore group" in the city which help the rebels.

"Iloilo has no strategic value. They could hold on for days or even weeks but it would not make any political difference," he said.

Thailand

Death Toll in Unrest Rises to 53; 789 Missing

BK2905032992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 29 May 92 p 1

[Text] A total of 789 persons have been reported missing following the military crackdown on unarmed demonstrators from May 17-20, Mahidon's Hotline Centre said yesterday.

But the figure is subject to change since there are families who still do not know for certain whether any of their kinsfolk are missing, according to the centre.

As of noon yesterday, the centre was still swamped with telephone calls making enquiries and giving information about the missing.

So far 653 males and 136 females have been reported missing, according to the centre's statistics which was updated yesterday in conjunction with seven other institutes: Chira Bunmak (NIDA), Chulalongkon Students' Centre, Children's Foundation, Ramkhamhaeng and Thammasat Information Centres, Students' Federation of Thailand, and the Lawyers Society of Thailand.

Meanwhile, the death toll from the bloody crackdown rose to 53 yesterday, while the number of the injured was established at 759.

According to the Interior Ministry, 314 of its original total of 891 people reported missing have been confirmed to have either returned home or reported themselves to authorities.

The ministry's figures released yesterday showed 577 listed as missing. The ministry has been able to confirm that up to 314 of this total have not yet made any contact with their families.

The rest of those listed as missing remained unaccounted for because the ministry did not have addresses and telephone numbers where they or their families could be reached, said the ministry's Deputy Permanent Secretary Ari Wong-araya.

Mr Ari said as of yesterday 39 people were confirmed killed and their bodies collected by authorities. Six of the bodies could not be identified, he said.

The Interior Ministry is to release the names and addresses of those still missing today. It has also appointed two sub-committees to try to trace them.

The Social Security Office yesterday announced financial assistance for all the dead and injured victims of the bloody incident who were social security card holders.

Relatives are entitled to 11,000 baht per death in funeral expenses, while those injured will be reimbursed for medical expenses up to 30,000 baht each.

House Appoints Special Committee To Probe Unrest

BK2805155192 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] The House of Representatives has appointed a 45-man special committee to probe for facts about the violence of 17-20 May. Today's meeting of the House of Representatives lasted over seven hours. The session debated seven motions on the agenda, and came to two conclusions—to set up a special committee, and to have the House of Representatives' special committee on administrative affairs be in charge of the investigation. The meeting voted 155 to 105 for the formation of a special committee to probe the incident. The special committee will be made up of members from various political parties based on quotas. The committee must complete the investigation within 45 days.

Military Urged To Cooperate in Investigation

BK2805034592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 May 92 p A6

[Editorial: "Military Should Cooperate To Find What Went Wrong"]

[Text] The Army's spokesman on Tuesday described last week's bloodshed as "a regrettable accident" which no one in the Army wanted to see happen. He said things happened so fast that no one could keep the situation under control.

The spokesman reiterated the Army's claim that the soldiers acted only in self-defence and responded with gunfire only when they were shot at by snipers hiding in nearby buildings. At least three soldiers were shot and wounded by the snipers, he said. And the fact that some of the demonstrators had high-angled gunshot wounds in the back was only further "proof" that there were snipers in the area, he said. Certainly they were not shot by the soldiers confronting them at ground level.

The Supreme Command, though having no direct role in the crackdown of the demonstrators, is also promoting this theory about the snipers provoking and firing at the two sides in the confrontation. At least this is the line the military is going to sell to its personnel in the armed forces.

At the height of the crisis, Gen Suchinda Khraprayun publicly charged that two major opposition leaders (he never named them, but it was well understood that he was referring to New Aspiration Party leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut and Phalang Tham Party leader Maj Gen Chamlong Simuang) were instigating unrest in order to overthrow the constitutional monarchy and set up a new religion to replace Buddhism.

Since Suchinda's resignation from the premiership last Sunday, the military seems no longer interested in pursuing these questions. Now it is more convenient to blame an anonymous but omnipotent "third hand" for deploying the snipers, sending out motorcycle squads to destroy public property, and placing provocateurs to jeer at the police and the soldiers at various flash points. Ten or 20 years ago the "third hand" usually referred to communists.

But since the Army itself has publicly claimed to have defeated the communists in Thailand both militarily and politically during the 1980s, using the communists as a public excuse now would be laughable. Moreover, few Thais are afraid of the communists since witnessing the collapse of the Soviet Union and other communist regimes in Eastern Europe.

So who could the "third hand" be? The Army has no clear answer. Neither has it a coherent explanation on why the "third hand" did what they were accused of doing and what their ultimate goal might have been.

On the other hand, many members of the press and the Confederation for Democracy as well as impartial eyewitnesses saw riot policemen beat up unarmed demonstrators, vandalize vehicles, and rough up protesters under police custody on late May 17 night. There are photographs of men wearing bullet-proof vests burning Nang Loeng police station. There is video-tape footage showing policemen and soldiers firing directly into fleeing crowds and demonstrators crouching on the pavement, as well as of soldiers kicking and walking on demonstrators lying on the ground and in the lobby of the Royal Hotel and mistreating those who already had their hands tightly bound behind their back.

These video tapes are selling like hot cakes in Thailand. The vivid scenes of brutality tell a completely different story from what the military wants the people to believe. Many of the policemen and soldiers didn't show any respect for the demonstrators as human beings, much less as fellow Thai countrymen.

The Army spokesman claims that many of the enlisted men were inexperienced and they reacted instinctively to whatever threat they perceived under the difficult situation. But the soldiers who charged into the Royal Hotel during the wee hours of May 19 to flush out demonstrators clearly enjoyed mistreating others. Other soldiers were seen cooly taking aim with their M-16s and pistols at demonstrators, as if they were shooting at dummy targets in some shooting range.

These horrible scenes shown on TV outside Thailand shocked the world community, especially Thais living or staying abroad, including HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirinthon who was on an official visit to Paris during the bloodshed. All civilized governments immediately deplored the violence and condemned the brutality against the unarmed demonstrators.

If the Thai military establishment sincerely regrets the bloodshed and wants to find out what went wrong, or who the "third hand" could be, then all the military leaders directly involved should step forward and cooperate with the impending official investigation.

If there was indeed a "third hand", then it is imperative it be unmasked and the masterminds brought to trial.

But much more importantly, this investigation could teach both the military and the spublic to talk with each other, and find ways to prevent similar bloodshed should there be another confrontation in the future.

General Says Army 'Insulted'; To Protect Honor

BK2805142892 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Army Secretary Major General Chaturit Phromsakha Na Sakhon Nakhon briefed a news conference on the results of a meeting of Army unit commanders held at the Army meeting hall today. He said that at the meeting commanders were briefed on the recent situation and discussed ways to explain the situation to Army personnel. The unit commanders were instructed to explain to the personnel that the soldiers' operation was carried out in line with the law and within the responsibilities of their superiors according to the order to prevent further losses of the life and property of the people.

[Begin recording] [Chaturit, in progress] ...to explain the situation to the personnel in their respective units as well as their families, who are affected by feelings of unfairness, by basing their judgments on facts, and to instruct them to be patient and to exercise extreme restraint. The meeting discussed and reached a clear decision that, judging from the past situation, the Army is being insulted. There have been instigations through rumors and other methods causing disunity in the Army, which will result in destruction for the Army in the future. So all of us have agreed to join forces to defend our commanders and to preserve the reputation and honor of the Army with life and soul. They will not allow the soul of the Army to be trampled on further. [end recording]

However, the Army secretary said that the Army felt very sorry about the losses caused by the incident. The losses were caused by the rapidly changing situation.

[Begin recording] [Chaturit] I would like to explain that if we are attacked and falsely charged by groundless accusations to the point that we cannot tolerate this any more, we will stand to protect the Army's honor and soul. Everything is normal. Do not think of this as a threat.

[Inaudible question]

[Chaturit] We accepted our mistake. As I have told you, the situation was quite volatile. Concerning your question whether the Army will apologize, I would like to say that we feel very sorry about what has happend. [end recording]

Officers Resent 'Smear Campaign'

BK2905015792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 29 May 92 pp A1, A3

[Excerpt] A group of academics warned yesterday that certain military leaders were distorting facts in a bid to create even more animosity between the armed forces and the public who are demanding that those responsible for the May 17-20 massacre of pro-democracy demonstrators be brought to justice.

The warning came as 200 commanders of active Army forces throughout the country assembled at Army headquarters to pledge allegiance to their leaders and vowed to defend "with our lives" the army's honour against what was described as a smear campaign and harassment.

An Army spokesman said the officers were told to "take pride" for their role in the crackdown which their commanders claimed was carried out to save lives and public property.

The academics, most of them Thammasat University lecturers, said they were alarmed by the apparent attempt by some military leaders to pitch the military establishment against the public so they could manipulate the armed forces to prolong their hold on power.

"Let there be no mistake that the conflict that culminated in the bloodshed between May 17 and 20 was not a confrontation between the people and the military establishment," they said in the statement.

"It was a conflict between a group [of military leaders] who made use of the Army and Parliament to perpetuate their authoritarian rule."

The academics also pointed out that members of the public were demanding that only those responsible for ordering troops to fire on unarmed and peaceful protesters should be tried by the courts.

"We call on the armed forces to restructure themselves in a way that will prevent corrupt soldiers from assuming seats of power and will promote good soldiers to assume the military leadership," they said.

Kaeosan Atipho of Thammasat University's Faculty of Political Science said he sympathized with the families of military men, many of whom have reportedly been ostracized following the bloody crackdown in which hundreds were killed and injured.

"We have the feeling that there is an attempt to distort the facts to the effect that the people are hostile to the entire military establishment, which is not true," Kaewsan said.

"Certain military leaders are using the armed forces to protect themselves and their selfish interests."

Army spokesman Chaturit Phromsakhana Sakhon Nakhon, speaking at a press conference, said the Army commanders pledged their loyalty to Army leaders after they were briefed on the "May 4-20 unrest" and the role of the Army.

Maj Gen Chaturit said that during a two-hour meeting, presided over by Army Commander in Chief Itsaraphong Nunphakdi at Army headquarters yesterday morning, commanders of Army units responsible for "maintaining peace and order" in Bangkok explained their actions to their counterparts in the provinces.

Army sources told THE NATION that during the meeting a general questioned Gen Itsaraphong about the propriety of involving the Army in the struggle for political power.

"I couldn't understand why you should involve the Army in exchange for political power?" one source quoted the general, whom he did not name, as saying during the meeting.

This general told the assembly of commanders that during the May 17-20 crackdown, commanders in the provinces were confused by rumours of divisiveness among Army units, the source said.

"We should now concentrate our efforts on the survival of the Army rather than dividing ourselves into classes," the general reportedly said.

The sources said of the 200 commanders at yesterday's meeting, about 70 were regimental and divisional commanders.

Itsaraphong was quoted as telling the commanders that the Army is united and denied claims about divisiveness.

According to Chaturit, the assembly of the Army commanders agreed that:

—The crackdown was part of law enforcement to maintain peace and order carried out under legal instructions from superiors.

—The supreme commander was ultimately responsible for all Army action taken during the crackdown. The responsibility was passed down the line of command. The Army commander in chief was in charge of the crackdown.

—The Army action was aimed at protecting the lives and property of the general public.

All Army troops and officers involved should "take pride and feel honoured for having accomplished their objectives" in curbing possible irreparable damage to the country. Army troops and officers must strictly observe and carry out the will of His Majesty the King.

—Families of Army troops and officers should exercise self- restraint in the face of discriminatory treatment of them.

—The Army has been harassed by the arousal of public feeling against it, and by rumours that are damaging its reputation which could prove to be destructive in the long run. [passage omitted]

Speaker Says More Time Needed for Naming Premier

BK2905070892 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Answering questions from newsmen this morning about naming a new prime minister, House Speaker Athit Urairat said he needed more time to consider the political parties' nomination to ensure that there were no better alternatives. He said he could not say if he could complete his consideration next week. Athit said it is necessary to consider the nomination of the political parties from all angles for the sake of suitability, appropriateness, and national interests. In any event, he hoped that would be completed before the parliament's third reading of the Constitution amendments because a government is needed to administer the country.

Athit said it is necessary to rationally consider the individual for the prime minister's post. Several sides have given him suggestions on the matter and he is open to new suggestions. He said perhaps the outcome will not completely meet the set targets, but he also cannot cut short the process because something may come up tomorrow which may be better than today. Therefore, the door should not be shut to something better. Otherwise, it must be ascertained that there is nothing better available before we consider what we have at present.

Concerning the formation of a minority government, Athit said forming such government is technically possible but in reality a minority government in Thailand, unlike in other countries, will find it difficult to operate.

Athit assured newsmen that he definitely will not submit the name of a prime minister to the king for royal appointment today. He noted that there has been a campaign to push him to submit a nomination for prime minister to the king, while there has been also a campaign against the nomination and yet another campaign to delay a prime ministerial appointment until after the constitution amendment process is completed. Therefore, it is clear that there are pressures and suggestions from various circles.

Chawalit Proposed as Premier To Block Coalition

BK2905021592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 29 May 92 pp 1, 3

[Text] In a last-ditch effort to block the return to government of pro-military parties, the New Aspiration Party [NAP] has asked the House Speaker to delay the nomination of Chat Thai leader Sombun Rahong as prime minister to His Majesty the King.

The NAP yesterday formally informed House Speaker Athit Urairat of the Opposition's decision to nominate its leader Chawalit Yongchaiyut for the premiership and asked that the opposition parties be given more time to seek support in Parliament.

The NAP move came amid growing opposition by pro-democracy groups to the nomination of ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sombun.

But Dr Athit said yesterday that he would not be able to withhold the nomination of ACM Sombun very long because of its solid support from the six pro-military parties.

While admitting that there would be problems if he forwards the name of ACM Sombun to His Majesty the King for approval, Dr Athit said he had no choice but to do so because the NAP-led Opposition may not be able to muster the required 180 seats in Parliament.

The Opposition has 165 seats in the lower house to the pro-military parties' 195 seats.

Dr Athit said that with Social Action Party reaffirming its support for the pro-military wing yesterday, it was unlikely that NAP will be able to achieve the 180-seat margin.

"I can wait, but if NAP asks for the delay just to buy time, I will not be able to delay the nomination because the country needs a government," Dr Athit said.

He did not present ACM Sombun's name to His Majesty the King yesterday.

NAP yesterday formally notified the House Speaker of the nomination of its leader for the premiership by the four opposition parties.

The Democrat, Phalang Tham and Solidarity parties separately informed the House Speaker of their support for Gen Chawalit as prime minister.

Gen Chawalit yesterday told reporters that it didn't matter if the Opposition could form a government or not.

"We only want to show our responsibility and help solve the current political crisis," he added.

Gen Chawalit admitted that his chance of success in forming the new government was slim because the pro-military parties are firmly united and have insisted on the nomination of ACM Sombun.

The group also plans to make Chat Thai Secretary-General Banhan Sinlapa-Acha finance minister and Social Action Party leader Montri Phongphanit communications minister.

Gen Chawalit said he was trying his best to lead the next government away from the five pro-military parties.

If the five parties form the new government, "then we can start the countdown," Gen Chawalit said, adding that the new government will not last more than one month.

He said he was concerned the parties are ignoring the people's feelings.

The people have made it known that they reject the present government and want one they can rely on.

The five parties may want to return to power because they anticipate a House dissolution. Being in the government would enable them to take charge after the House is dissolved, giving them an advantage in the election, Gen Chawalit said.

On Wednesday, the coalition parties—Samakkhi Tham, Chat Thai, Social Action, Prachakon Thai and Ratsadon, plus newcomer Puang Chon Chao Thai—notified Dr Athit of their nomination of ACM Sombun.

The House Speaker asked the political parties to reply yesterday to his proposal for a government of national reconciliation. The opposition parties appeared to give it a cold response.

Opposition against the coalition parties forming the new government escalated yesterday.

Four highly-respected academics—Dr Sem Phringphuangkeow, Dr Prawet Wasi, Sane Chamarik and Raphi Sakhrik—issued a statement contesting the legitimacy of the coalition parties.

The four said the Opposition should form a temporary government to dissolve Parliament and hold an election in 3-6 months.

They also proposed amendment of the election law to introduce the "one man, one vote" system, under which candidates can contest an election without party affiliation.

Dr Prawet said this electoral system would allow good people who don't have much financial support to contest elections, and would free politicians from much of the influence of their parties.

The Confederation for Democracy yesterday submitted a letter to House Speaker Athit challenging the legitimacy of the coalition parties.

The pro-democracy umbrella organisation said the coalition parties must bear the responsibility for the bloody suppression of protests last week.

They expressed concern that growing opposition to the parties may spark another political crisis if they form the next government.

A pro-democracy group from Phattani Province, led by Mrs Amara Sawettatat, president of the faculty council of Prince of Songkhla University, yesterday issued a statement opposing efforts by the coalition parties to set up the government.

Dailies Comment on Formation of New Government

BK2805152592

[Editorial Report] Four Bangkok dailies, NAEO NA, MATICHON, THAI RAT, and BAN MUANG, on 28 May carry editorial comments on attempts by political parties to form a new government following the recent unrest.

NAEO NA's 700-word editorial on page 4, "Conscientiousness of Politicians," puts the blame on the five government parties for developments which culminated in the bloody crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators. The five parties were the ones which named an outsider, General Suchinda Khraprayun, as prime minister in defiance of the general trend and wishes of the people. When a peaceful demonstration turned into a violent riot, the five parties remained indifferent. The call by the house speaker for the establishment of a national government for unity met with protests, especially from the Democrat Party. "What the people look forward to now is the passage of the constitutional amendments in the third reading. Following this, they are concerned with the investigation to find those held responsible for the killings during the recent unrest. It seems that the people care less about who will be the next prime minister." The paper says that instead of scrambling to form a government, the five coalition parties should show a spirit of restraint and "wait until the constitutional amendments pass the third reading, and then examine themselves in order to see if they are qualified to form a new government."

MATICHON's 700-word editorial on page 8, "A Difficult Equation," says that May's scar left damage in the country, mainly in the economy. Some have proposed the dissolution of the house, but this should be done after the constitutional amendments pass the third reading by parliament. The next concern is the selection of the new prime minister. The five coalition parties, meeting strong criticism, should be courageous and allow the opposition to form the government. "If the five parties insist on forming a government because of their majority in parliament, what are they going to do with the top military officers responsible for the crackdown on demonstrators? This is the question the people will pose for the next government, and if it fails to provide an answer, political parties will risk being tried by the people."

THAI RAT's 600-word editorial on page 3, "The Five Parties Must Be Held Responsible," says that it is an unprecedented good sign that MPs from both the government and opposition parties as well as senators had jointly approved the constitutional amendments in two readings within one day. "Now, the most important task for the House of Representatives is to select a new prime minister." The editorial says that the five parties which had joined in General Suchinda Khraprayun's government are trying to form a new coalition government without any political conscience. We would like to affirm that the five parties—the Samakkhi Tham, Chat Thai, Social Action, Prachakon Thai, and Ratsadon parties—should not receive public support to form a government to administer national affairs because of its irresponsible acts which led to the bloody tragedy. These five parties had given the public trust to an outsider to take up the premiership, which drew opposition and eventually led to the bloody incident. These parties had also backtracked on the constitutional amendments.

Concluding, the editorial says that "core leaders of these coalition parties also have close relations with military leaders. Some of these parties have been established especially to support the military leaders. These persons are tantamount to the representatives of the power group in the military. As a result, it will be difficult to get justice from such a government. So the opposition should now be allowed to form the next government. If they fail, then Parliament should be dissolved to return power to the people."

BAN MUANG's 550-word editorial on page 5, "The Path to National Calamity," says that the National Assembly will meet again on 10 June to consider the constitutional amendments in the third reading. The country is expected to have a more democratic constitution which will satisfy the people. The members of the House of Representatives will have more rights and power than the appointed senators in governing the country. "However, Thailand is now lacking a permanent government for national administration. The country only has a caretaker government which does not have full authority. This is not right and not good for the country and the people as well as for the country's economic situation and international relations."

All of the political parties should realize their responsiblities entrusted by the people. "If all parties do not realize their duties and responsiblities, then why do we have the MPs? So all the parties should cooperate to set up a government to administer national affairs as soon as possible," the editorial says. It also says that once we get rid of the dictators and the opportunists, we should not have politicial enemies dividing national unity, which will only cause confusion for the country's 60 million people. If the politicians are still infatuated with selfishness, rather than paying attention to the national interest, one day our country will be doomed in a manner such as that which occurred in Cambodia or Burma.

Chawalit Urges Military Chiefs To Resign

BK2905024592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 29 May 92 p 3

[Text] New Aspiration Party [NAP] leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut yesterday urged top military officers to resign to take responsibility for the killing of pro-democracy protesters by troops last week.

"If they are educated and responsible they should (resign)," said the former supreme commander, when asked whether Supreme Commander ACM [Air Chief

Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin and Army chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi should resign to take responsibility for the bloodshed.

He said the senior officers who gave the orders to shoot should be tried so that facts could come out and the culprits punished.

Talking to reporters at NAP headquarters, Gen Chawalit said ex- prime minister Suchinda had been warned by him not to take the prime minister's post because he would face strong opposition from the public.

"I sent him a letter two weeks after the (February 23, 1991) coup warning him what would happen (if he took the post). I warned him again a few days before he took the post but he didn't believe me," said the Opposition leader.

He said the bloodshed might have been caused by poor training of military personnel who had been brought from the provinces to quell the demonstrations.

"Tanks came from Kanchanaburi and Prachinburi," he said.

Kanchanaburi Province is the home of the Ninth Division, while Prachinburi is the home of the Second Division. Both are under the command of First Army commander Lt-Gen Chainarong Nunphakdi, a close relative of Gen Itsaraphong.

He said there are many ways to contain a protest. Bangkok-based military personnel have been trained in anti-riot methods, such as the harmless use of electric batons or horses to keep protesters under control.

"I don't know what went wrong," said Gen Chawalit, adding that senior military officers should not deny responsibility for the brutality.

He said soldiers always strictly obey the orders of their commanders.

The former Army chief said most infantrymen disagreed with the action taken by a few officers.

Asked about the possibility of another coup, the general said it is likely, "but not in the next few days."

He said the vicious circle of elected governments being overthrown by the military would continue.

Democracy Group Urges Transfer of Top Officers

BK2905060692 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 May 92 p 6

[Text] The Campaign for Popular Democracy [CPD] yesterday called on acting Prime Minister Michai Ruchuphan to suspend or transfer five top military and police officers to ensure an impartial investigation of the massacre of protesters.

In a letter to Mr Michai, the CPD, an umbrella organisation, said that the five officers are an obstacle to finding those responsible for ordering troops and policemen to fire on unarmed demonstrators.

The five are Internal Peace-keeping Command chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin, Capital Security Command chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, First Army Region Commander Lt-Gen Chainarong Nunphakdi, Interior Minister ACM Anan Kalintha and Deputy Interior Minister Pol Lt-Gen Wirot Pao-in.

"The actions of soldiers and policemen under the command of these officers were illegal, violated democratic principles and basic human rights, and greatly damaged the military," the letter said.

Those who issued the orders to shoot should be punished through both criminal prosecution and disciplinary action, the CPD said.

At a time when the people, the press, MPs and the world community are moving for an investigation of the massacre to punish the wrongdoers, the five officers should not remain in their powerful posts in the armed forces and government, it said.

They would be an obstacle and could use their power to hide and distort the facts to impede the investigation, it added.

The CPD also called on House Speaker Athit Urairat to voice support for a government of national reconciliation.

Dr Athit said the CPD proposed that the government of national reconciliation comprise political parties which agreed to a common platform of political reform.

The parties could come from both the government and opposition side of the House.

It also recommended that the government remain in office for a pre-determined period, possibly six months, so it could implement reforms which limit the role of the military, promulgate a law guaranteeing people the right to information from television and radio, and another decentralising administrative power to rural areas.

Parliament could then be dissolved and another election held.

The prime minister must be elected in a free vote of the 360 members of the House of Representatives.

The group also suggested that an election committee be established or the interior minister be appointed by neutral people to ensure a fair election.

Dr Athit on Tuesday urged the different parties to put aside their differences and form a government of national reconciliation.

He said yesterday the government and opposition camps should end their enmity as it only caused confrontation and a tense atmosphere.

Dr Athit said the proposed government of reconciliation should comprise many parties regardless of their former affiliations.

The opinions of all parties would be taken for consideration.

Rally Leaders Threatened, Intimidated

BK2905032192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 29 May 92 p 6

[Text] Well-known social worker Mrs Prathip Ungsontham said yesterday she has become a target of threats and intimidation because of her involvement in the recent pro-democracy demonstrations.

Mrs Prathip, who is an executive member of the Confederation for Democracy (CFD) which organised the May 17 protest that led to a bloody crackdown by the military, said that another CFD member, Chitrawadi Worachat, the daughter of hunger striker Chalat Worachat, had also been intimidated.

The "slum angel" said four or five men who have been passing by her house and the Duang Prathip Foundation every day and saying in loud voices "be careful or you will be stepped on."

Mrs Prathip, who was a leader of the pro-democracy protests, said she had received many intimidating letters and telephone calls.

Vietnam

Russian Charge d'Affaires Holds News Conference

BK2705160592 Hanoi VNA in English 1533 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 27—Russian Charge d'Affaires a.i. to Vietnam Igor Novikov held a regular press conference here today to announce, among other things, a working visit to Vietnam by a delegation of the Russian Ministry of Labor lad by its deputy minister.

He said the delegation signed with a delegation of the Vietnamese Ministry of Labor, War Invalids, and Social Affairs some supplementary documents to a governmental agreement on labor cooperation between Vietnam and the former Soviet Union.

On the cooperative relations between Vietnam and the Russian Federation in oil and gas exploration, hydroelectricity, and trade, he stresssed that the Russian side would do everything in its power to further develop those relations in the interests of both countries.

French Bank Licensed To Open Branch Office

BK2805150392 Hanoi VNA in English 1437 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 28—The French bank Credit Lyonnais today was licensed to open its branch office in Vietnam.

This is the first bank of France, as well as of Europe, to have a branch office in Hanoi.

Embassy Rejects Thai Navy Chief's Accusation

BK2905043192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 29 May 92 p A3

[Excerpt] The Vietnamese Embassy yesterday denied statements by a senior Thai Navy officer that Vietnam had taken the opportunity during the political turbulence in Bangkok to chase Thai fishing trawlers into its territorial waters on many occasions.

The embassy quoted Naval Chief of Staff Adm Surawuti Maharet as saying, in an interview with two Thai-language newspapers, that the Veitnamese trawlers had encroached on Thai territorial waters when Thailand faced a political crisis last week.

The arrest on Saturday by the Thai Navy frigate Takbai of a Vietnamese fishing boat, carrying 15 Vietnamese soldiers armed with two heavy machine guns and 10 AK rifles, for alledgely violating Thailand's territorial waters, proved Surawuti's claim, according to reports in the two newspapers.

In a press statement, the embassy said it was "irresponsible" that Adm Surawuti had linked the two incidents to justify the arrest.

The Embassy said the Foreign Ministry in Hanoi had called on Thai authorities to release 15 other Vietnamese soldiers arrested on March 4 after a Thai frigate attacked and sank their patrol boat.

The Foreign Ministry had also urged Thailand to take effective measures to prevent frequent violations of its waters by Thai fishing vessels.

It said the soldiers captured by the Thai Navy had been patrolling Vietnamese waters off the coast of Vietnam's Minh Hai province.

A Navy Intelligence source had earlier said that the frigate found the vessel in Thai waters on March 4. The Vietnamese boat sank following a brief gunfight after it resisted arrest.

The source said the Vietnamese soldiers took off their uniforms and jumped off the boat to try to escape the arrest. [passage omitted]

Phillipine Response To Protest Noted

BK2805150792 Hanoi VNA in English 1440 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 28—The Philippine Government has issued a press release in connection with the statement issued by the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry on May 16, 1992. The press release said: "The Philippine Government has taken note of protest by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam over an agreement between the National Offshore Oil Company of the People's

Republic of China and Crestone Energy Company of the United States on a joint oil and gas exploration venture in a marine area off the Vietnamese southern province of Ba Ria-Vung Tau in the South China Sea.

"This most recent development" the press release said, "does not add to the efforts to establish a political climate favorable to the peaceful and equitable settlement of the conflicting claims.

"The Philippine Government recalls the assurances by the various claimants to seek a peaceful solution and hopes that steps towards this process can be initiated in the near future" it concluded.

Generals Receive Group of South 'Revolutionaries'

BK2805160192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] At the Ministry of National Defense's Guest House on 20 May, Senior Lieutenant General Tran Van Quang, deputy national defense minister, and Senior Lieutenant General Nguyen Nam Khanh, deputy head of the Vietnam People's Army [VPA] General Political Department, on behalf of the National Defense Ministry, cordially received a delegation of revolutionaries from the south who were detained and sentenced to death during the Vietnam war. The delegation is on a visit to Hanoi on the occasion of Uncle Ho's birthday anniversary.

At this special meeting, Senior Lt. Gen. Tran Van Quang conveyed best wishes from leaders of the National Defense Ministry and all cadres and combatants of the Armed Forces to comrades, colleagues, and revolutionaries working in the South during the U.S.-puppet time who were detained and sentenced to death but whose sentences were not yet carried out.

On behalf of the 24-man delegation, Comrade Le Minh Chau thanked the National Defense Ministry for its warm welcome. He also expressed profound gratitude to comrades, countrymen, and combatants of the heroic VPA who sacrificed lives and endured hardship for the liberation of South Vietnam and the reunification of the nation, thereby enabling the release of revolutionaries who were sentenced to death, and helping them to reunite with their families in the day of total victory.

Leaders Attend Ho Chi Minh Birthday Exhibition

BK2805142392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] On the occasion of the 102th birthday anniversary of President Ho Chi Minh, Comrades Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State, and Le Quang Dao, chairman of the National Assembly, recently attended an exhibition on Uncle Ho and the people which was organized at the Ho Chi Minh Museum.

The state and National Assembly leaders carefully viewed various documents and books written by President Ho Chi Minh and photos depicting Uncle Ho's close ties with the poeple's strata as well as his simple lifestyle, a factor strengthening his close relationship with the masses.

Chairman Sends Letter on Disaster Prevention Day

BK2805133792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 21 May 92

[Letter by Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State, to "Compatriots and comrades"; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] On the anniversary day of flash floods and typhoon prevention and natural disasters reduction, from 22 May 1946 to 22 May 1992, on behalf of the party and state, I cordially send my warm wishes and greetings to the entire compatriots, cadres, soldiers, workers, and public servants of all sectors and levels in the country, and to the cadres and members of the dike management forces of the water reservation sector.

In the glorious history of thousands of years of national construction and protection, our people have preserved and developed the tradition of fighting against foreign invasion and natural calamities. Since the establishment of the revolutionary government, every year in the rainy season, the people and soldiers enthusiastically respond to the appeal of our beloved President Ho Chi Minh in striving to protect dikes and prevent typhoons and flash floods.

This year, in order to actively take part in the international decade for natural disaster reduction and to welcome the Ninth National Assembly election, the compatriots, cadres, and soldiers have striven to basically accomplish the national plan of dike strengthening before the anniversary on 22 May.

On this occasion, I wholeheartedly praise the great efforts and achievements of compatriots, cadres, soldiers, workers, and public servants for the work of dike strengthening, flash flood and typhoon prevention, and natural disaster reduction in the country. I also commend our overseas people for their regular attention and support for the undertaking of flash flood and typhoon prevention and natural disaster reduction here.

Dear compatriots and comrades, to build a socialist Vietnam rich and strong and to provide the people with a prosperous, democratic, and happy life, we must always remember and base our conduct according to Uncle Ho's teachings. The work of dike strengthening and flash flood and typhoon prevention is the cause of our entire party, people, and Army. All people, young and old, male and female must have responsibilities and duties involving dike protection and flash flood prevention. I expect the party committees, government offices, mass organizations, and social organs, together with the entire people, to pay more attention to the construction and consolidation of forces for flash flood and typhoon prevention and natural disaster reduction in every sector, level, and office. The forces must readily and effectively prepare for any circumstances of typhoon and natural disaster in our country and actively take part in the international decade for natural disaster reduction with people all over the world.

I hope the compatriots, cadres, soldiers, workers, public servants, and the management of the committee for flash flood and typhoon prevention at all levels, together with the national committee for international decade of natural disaster reduction, will closely unite and coordinate to meritoriously accomplish their glorious duties. I convey to you all my friendly and determined-to-win salutations.